Alphonso and Eleonora;

OR,

THE TRIUMPHS OF

VALOUR AND VIRTUE.

ILLUSTRATED BY HISTORICAL FACTS.

By JOHN TALBOT DILLON, Esq. M.R.I.A.

Late Captain in the 2d Surrey Regiment of Militia,
&c. &c. &c.

Author of TRAVELS THROUGH SPAIN, &c. &c.

Auxilium ab Alto.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

LONDON: PRINTED
BY J. BARKER, No. 19, GREAT RUSSELL-STREET,
COVENT-GARDEN. SOLD BY HIM,
AND W. TAYLOR, BROMPTON-TERRACE,
KNIGHTSBRIDGE.

1800.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

PATRICK DILLON,

EARL OF ROSCOMMON,

BARON OF KILKENNY-WEST,

IN THE

KINGDOM OF IRELAND,

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

WHEN I have the honor to dedicate this Eſſay to your Lordſhip, I am fearful, you will think me a venturous ſoldier, indeed, in attempting to trace, after a lapſe of ſo many centuries, not only the military exploits; but likewiſe the character, of ſo GOOD, and magnanimous a Sovereign, as ALPHONSO IX. King of Caſtile, with that

of his virtuous and excellent Queen, ELEONORA of England. Your Lordſhip will think ſo, the more, I preſume, when I reflect, that in ſpeaking of theſe moſt illuſtrious characters, words are wanting to deſcribe; and ſtill more, to do juſtice, to their virtues, and high renown, the admiration of all Europe in their days.

In bringing forward this Spaniſh fragment of military proweſs, and virtue; in vain I invoke the elocution and ſpirit of that diſtinguiſhed Knight Don Franciſco de Quevedo, no leſs the friend of the Muſes! and I am equally abaſhed, ſhould I preſume in great timidity, to caſt a fond look, towards that brilliant genius, and favorite poet of the

Britiſh

Britiſh Empire, your Lordſhip's noble anceſtor, Wentworth Dillon, Earl of Roſcommon, to whom, as it was moſt juſtly ſaid, "the wit of Greece and Rome "were known."---But alas! My Lord, my only confidence, muſt be in your kind protection, and goodneſs, who deigns to overlook ſuch bold attempts of mine, inſpired only, by your Lordſhip's indulgence and benevolence.

If, my Lord, I could humbly hope, that in this revived portrait, the cauſe of loyalty and virtue, ſhould in the ſmalleſt degree be upheld, and that it is honoured with your Lordſhip's approbation, I ſhall feel myſelf moſt highly gratified; as the ſame virtues, that adorned the Hero of Caſtile, and his

royal family, with his faithful ſubjects, who ſo loyally ſupported his cauſe, will on the inmutable baſis of truth, ſtand the teſt of all ages, in oppoſition to diſaffection and ſtrife; and whatever was good, and admired, in ALPHONSO, and the great characters of his kingdoms, will equally ſhine and adorn a modern Sovereign, and the noble Lords of the preſent time; ſo that the benevolent and generous of our days, will no leſs excite our admiration, than thoſe of paſt ages.

With all deference then, my Lord, to ſuperior judgment, could I flatter myſelf with the ſmalleſt ſucceſs, from what has been obſerved by a great Spaniſh ſtateſman, who viſited this king-

kingdom in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Antonio Perez, I ſhould ſtill hope that a ſemblance of goodneſs may be perceived at this moment, in theſe ſketches, juſt as it was ſaid by that great writer, that even in the ſmall fragments of a looking glaſs, the image is ſtill perfectly ſeen by the beholder, in the ſame manner, as if the whole mirror was preſented: ſhould this be the caſe, and that it had the good fortune to be viewed by ſuch noble beholders, I ſhould deem myſelf very happy; and more perfectly ſo, if your Lordſhip condeſcends to look on it with a favorable eye, and will pleaſe to accept of this ſlight token of my grateful acknowledgments of your Lordſhip's kind favours, while I am no leſs deſirous to

add every ſentiment of profound reſpect, with which I have the honor to remain,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt obliged and obedient humble Servant and Kinſman,

JOHN TALBOT DILLON.

Michael Place,
Brompton,
19 May, 1800.

INTRODUCTION.

We take from every tree; lop, bark, and part of the timber.

SHAKESP. HEN. VIII.

IF ever there were a period in the hiſtory of Spain, when the royal character ſhone with ſplendor, amidſt the calamities of a juſt, and neceſſary war, or, in the eventual criſis of a ſucceeding peace, it was during the reign of ALPHONSO IX. ſirnamed THE GOOD, King of Caſtile and Toledo,—whoſe ſemblance I have faintly attempted to delineate, and to reanimate colours, which obſcured by age, and a lapſe of ſo many centuries, have faded in a manner, on the canvas.

In my endeavours towards ſuch an inveſtigation, I take in the firſt place, the opportunity to acknowledge the obligations I am under, to that illuſtrious and learned critic, the Noble Marquis of Mondejar, from whoſe life of King ALPHONSO, many valuable materials are ſelected, and confronted with the chronicles of the times, particularly, that of the moſt Reverend Roderick Archbiſhop of Toledo, the cotemporary of King Alphonſo, and on whom that ſovereign beſtowed ſo many favors.

When ſo good a judge as Pliny, made no difficulty to obſerve, that hiſtory however faintly traced, had yet its attractions,* I may perhaps be indulged in a fond hope, in favor of this fragment, and ſlight attempt, to reſcue from the obſcurity of the twelfth century, the memory of ſo exalted and virtuous a prince, as ALPHONSO IX. who merited from his loving ſubjects, the pleaſing appellation of THE GOOD, and whoſe conduct through life, not only entitled him to

* *Hiſtoria quoquomodo ſcripta delectat.* —— Plinius.

that

that endearing name, of all others, the moſt gratifying; but alſo, to the admiration of Europe, ſo univerſally beſtowed on a prince, famed for virtue, benevolence, and valour.

Such then, ye generous Britons, and all ye valiant ſoldiers, my revered countrymen, was the character of King ALPHONSO the NOBLE, and the GOOD, whoſe actions, we explore in theſe fragments, through a maze of centuries, and darkneſs, with all deference to more enlightened minds, and to the refined manners and cuſtoms of modern times.

After ſpeaking of this magnanimous ſovereign, I further beg leave to offer to the attention of my readers, the portrait of that moſt illuſtrious Engliſh Princeſs, Queen ELEONORA, the royal conſort of King Alphonſo, and daughter of the moſt potent Henry II. King of England. This princeſs's fame, and many virtues are beyond all praiſe, and will ever reflect the higheſt honor on her native country England,

while the ſame may be ſaid of her no leſs illuſtrious daughters, BERENGARIA, Queen of Caſtile in her own right, and Queen BLANCHE, conſort to Lewis VIII. of France, and mother to that renowned ſovereign Lewis IX. or *the Saint*, who filled the world with his heroic fame, and military exploits.

If that very diſtinguiſhed Spaniſh genius, Michael de Cervantes, of immortal memory, made no ſcruple to confeſs the uneaſineſs he felt, in making a preface to one of the moſt brilliant and delightful compoſitions that ever has been produced; how infinitely muſt I feel myſelf embarraſſed, and tremble before my readers, in attempting, to bring forward any introduction, that may apologize for a feeble fragment, like the preſent; I moſt freely acknowledge, that when I reflect ſeriouſly on the illuſtrious characters I have in view, I am no leſs perplexed at the magnitude of their glorious deeds, than at my ſlender powers to do them that juſtice I could wiſh. It happened to me alſo, one morning,

ing, when in a penſive mood, ſketching out theſe memoirs, that a naval friend favored me with a viſit, and in the courſe of converſation, on my conſulting him on ſuch hiſtorical inveſtigations, he kindly opened his mind to me, with the generous frankneſs, and liberal mind of a ſeaman, and ſaid; he thought the principal qualifications of thoſe who attempted ſuch reſearches, might be aſſimilated in ſome degree to the courſe of a navigator, and as the latter has always preſent, the four cardinal points of the compaſs, ſo the former ſhould attend to the four following, and no leſs eſſential points, to ſteer his hiſtorical bark, and bring her ſafe into port.

Firſt. Geographical accuracy, to illuſtrate the different ſcenes of action, wherein his hero is engaged.

Second. Hiſtorical and chronological knowledge, in addition to genealogical reſearch, to trace the deſcent of ſovereigns in great kingdoms, as well as of the nobility, whereby

whereby the rights and privileges of each, are aſcertained, as well as thoſe, of the people at large.

Third. A ſound judgment, and juſt criticiſm are alſo eſſential, with that degree of impartiality which falls to the ſhare of human weakneſs, and more particularly requiſite, if a writer ſpeaks of his own country.

Fourth. Elegance of ſtile, and purity of diction to captivate the reader, and while you delight his imagination, engage his attention to your narrative.

Finally, ſaid my noble friend, to continue my nautical compariſon, and ſubjoin, what may repreſent WIND and WATER, to give motion to your veſſel; it will not be amiſs, after attending to the four cardinal points, to annex the following, *viz.* a competent knowledge of the modern languages of Europe, which if accompanied by the exerciſe of any public office, or character, at home.

or

or abroad, either civil or military, from whence a general knowledge of men and manners might naturally enſue, theſe would greatly aſſiſt any purſuits of this nature, and enliven the true ideas of diſcretion and prudence, which retirement in the cloſet is too apt to weaken and abſorb.

Above all, let me recommend to you, when you come near the coaſt, and in hazy weather, not to ſhew too much canvas, but ſhorten ſail, and keep a good look out upon deck, or elſe you will infallibly run on ſhore, or amongſt ſunken rocks, and with the beſt intentions of ſteering a ſafe courſe, loſe your veſſel for ever, and be caſt away, a mere wreck, inſtead of bringing her ſafely, into the harbour of good opinion, and repute.

Having liſtened attentively, and thanked my valuable friend for theſe liberal hints, I had almoſt determined to relinquiſh all further thoughts of this nature, conſidering the perilous

navigation

navigation I had to encounter; reflecting however, that I had visited no less than at three different periods, the country in question, and that my acquaintance therewith was since early life, and filled the space of half a century,* and that I had seen the capital of Rome, and more than once, the Imperial Court of Vienna, and those, of other kings and princes of Europe, mentioned in this narrative, besides having experienced the boisterous element of the Atlantic, with all its vicissitudes, which my friend had so forcibly depicted, I acquired a certain degree of temerity, which I cannot readily account for, and have thrown myself on the indulgence of a candid public, to whose impartial judgment and opinion, I shall ever most cheerfully submit, having no other view than to merit their esteem, in addition to my desire of celebrating the actions of all good men, as far as my feeble powers may contribute thereto, in the slightest manner whatsoever.

* See *Travels through Spain, &c. by John Talbot Dillon, &c. &c. London*, 1780.

If

If therefore in theſe revived ſcenes, now laid before a diſcerning and indulgent public, I could humbly hope, that the cauſe of religion, virtue, and loyalty ſhould in any degree be ſupported and maintained, that it afforded a moral ſentiment, not unworthy of the ear of a reverend prelate, a gallant ſoldier, or an enlightened magiſtrate, in addition to its acceptance by my loyal countrymen in general, I ſhall deem myſelf amply rewarded for my labours; at all events, I refer the ſame moſt willingly to their deciſion, under the idea, that they will not be diſpleaſed, or view with cold indifference, the valour and fortitude of a ſovereign, who ſo intrepidly reſiſted the moſt violent aſſaults of an innumerable legion of foes, devoid of every principle of humanity, or juſtice, who aimed at the deſtruction of his empire. Yet even againſt ſuch a tremendous hoſt, the magnanimous ALPHONSO, ſupported by his brave and loyal people, ever famed for valour and inviolate honor, not only withſtood this torrent of corruption, and infinite numbers, but drove them all back

into

into their own country, loaded with infamy and ſhame; after which he returned to his capital, triumphant, amidſt the acclamations of his loyal ſubjects.

Such then, I beg leave to repeat, were the days of Caſtile during the reign of King ALPHONSO the NOBLE, and the GOOD, and of his beloved and excellent Queen ELEONORA, of England, the BENEVOLENT, under whoſe reign, religion was revered, virtue upheld, and the laws reſpected; in ſo much, that the glorious reign, as well, as the fame of ALPHONSO THE GOOD, have been handed down by a grateful poſterity, in proof that the Loyal Caſtilians knew equally to love their good ſovereign, the father of his people, and to cheriſh their country; likewiſe in defence of both, to venture their lives and fortunes in its ſupport.

Thus, under a free and happy conſtitution, ſanctioned by long experience, the benevolent ſovereign, by the ſupport of the worthy, will ever

ever be ſhielded from the machinations of the malignant, and every branch of legiſlature have its due equipoize, in a government wiſely eſtabliſhed for general proſperity, where freedom prevails, conſonant with good order, and legal authority, and being thus happily blended, ſo far from being deſtructive to liberty, becomes its ſecureſt barrier, and pledge of its duration.—Yes, my beloved countrymen, may ſuch ever be the lot of our happy Empire of Great Britain, and may it ſtand the teſt of ages, to the remoteſt period, and till time ſhall be no more!

If in tracing this Spaniſh ſtory of benevolence, I cannot animate it with the beautiful flights of imagination, or high colouring of Cervantes, ſtill, when we have truth in contemplation, I flatter myſelf, there is no need of ſuch incitements, ſince, for GOODNESS, as well as MAGNANIMITY, we have the nobleſt image at this very moment before our eyes; on whom every Britiſh ſubject muſt look with infinite rapture

ture and delight!——With ſimilar ſentiments, permit me in all curteſy generous reader, to annex in theſe plain words, my warmeſt wiſhes for the proſperity of my King, and country.——Under your indulgence, I envy not the brilliant genius of Cervantes, the erudition of Quevedo, the criticiſm of Mariana, or the flaſhy emanations, of all the wits of Spain.—If on my part, I have not, as far as I am able, and with fervent zeal, ſupported the cauſe of loyalty, virtue, and honour—Then! in the language of our favorite Shakeſpeare,——" Let reproach be " Talbot's Fame."

CONTENTS
OF THE
SECTIONS.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

SECTION I.

STATE of religion, manners, ſociety, and literature in Caſtile, when King Alphonſo aſcended the throne.—A review of parties during the king's minority.——Conteſt between the houſes of Caſtro and Lara.—Fidelity of the citizens of Avila.—They raiſe a volunteer corps armed, and equipped at their own expence.—Fernan de Caſtro kills his wife through jealouſy and by miſtake.

SECTION II.

KING Alphonſo takes the government of Caſtile into his own hands, in purſuance of a decree of THE CORTES.—Marries the Engliſh Princeſs Eleonora, daughter of Henry II. King of England.—Character of the Princeſs Eleonora of England.

SECTION III.

KING Alphonſo puts himſelf at the head of his army, attacks the King of Navarre, then lays

ſiege

ſiege to the ſtrong fortreſs of Cuença, poſſeſſed by the Mahometans, which after an obſtinate reſiſtance, finally ſubmits—Alphonſo protects the church—Gives every encouragement to religion, morality, and virtue.

SECTION IV.

THE King of Caſtile ſubmits his differences with the King of Navarre, to the deciſion of the King of England, and jointly with the King of Navarre, ſends ambaſſadors to the Engliſh court, where both parties lay their caſe before the great council of the nation.—The King of England's letter to the Kings of Caſtile, and of Navarre, with his deciſion on the points ſubmitted to his judgment.—Decree of Alphonſo in ſupport of the Spaniſh church.

SECTION V.

THE King of Caſtile ſends a ſummons to the King of Leon, to come to the City of Carrion, and pay him homage for his kingdom of Leon, in preſence of the CORTES.—Prince Conrad, third ſon of Frederic, ſirnamed Barbaroſſa, Emperor of Germany, is affianced with BERENGARIA, Princeſs of Caſtile, and the marriage contract formally ſigned in the City of Scheleſtad, in Alſatia.—Prince Conrad comes to the King of Caſtile,

Caſtile, in the City of Carrion, receives the honor of Knighthood.—The Queen of Caſtile delivered of a ſon, named Henry.—The match between Conrad and Berengaria broke off, on account of conſanguinity.—The Princeſs Berengaria, marries her couſin, Alphonſo King of Leon.—Pope Celeſtine diſſolves the marriage, on account of conſanguinity.—The ſame injunctions are renewed by his ſucceſſor, Innocent III.—Finally the marriage is diſſolved, and Queen Berengaria returns to Caſtile, their iſſue declared legitimate from the purity of their intentions.

SECTION VI.

THE Princeſs BLANCHE of Caſtile, is married to Lewis VIII. of France, by whom ſhe was afterwards mother to Lewis IX. or the Saint. This match concerted by Queen Eleonora, who goes to Caſtile, in order to conduct the Princeſs Blanche to France.—Character of Eleonora, of Guyenne, Queen of Henry II.—Character of the amiable Princeſs Blanche of Caſtile; vain pretenſions of the Court of France in her favor, reſpecting the kingdom of Caſtile.—Character of the Princeſs BERENGARIA her ſiſter, both, affording equally examples of admiration, in a manner heretofore unknown.

SEC-

SECTION VI.

(This ſection repeated by an error of preſs, ſhould be ſection VII.)

THE Moors in Spain invite the Emperor of Morocco, ABEN, JACOB BEN JOSEPH ſtiled the Miramomelin of Africa, to come to their ſuccour.—The Emperor croſſes the Straits of Gibraltar, marches to Cordova, in order to attack the king of Caſtile. Fernan de Caſtro ſides with the Moors, againſt his lawful ſovereign.—Alphonſo applies in vain for ſuccour to the Kings of Leon, and of Navarre.—Attacks the Moors without them, is defeated at the battle of Alarcos.—Animadverſions on the conduct of the General Lope de Haro.—Story of the elopement of the Counteſs de Haro with a blackſmith of Burgos.—She dies univerſally deſpiſed.

☞ At the moment when this work was cloſed, I beg leave to add, that what is mentioned in page 21, vol. ii. reſpecting the Electoral votes in the empire of Germany, and the votes of the Elector Palatine, and Elector of Bavaria, as being ſeparate, is merely inſerted in an hiſtorical manner, without the moſt diſtant idea of diſreſpect, or miſrepreſentation whatſoever, reſpecting the rights of thoſe moſt Serene and Illuſtrious Houſes.

APPENDIX.

Alphonſo

Alphonso and Eleonora.

Pour remembrer des Anceſſours,
Les fez, et les diz, et les mours,
Doit on les livres, et les geſtes,
Et les Iſtoires lire, as feſtes.

Le Rou des Normands par Waſſe clerc de la Chapelle de Heu. II. Roy d'Angleterre, 1160.

MANUSCRIT ROY, No. 7567.

SECTION I.

A. D. 1154. IN vain has the page of hiſtory waſted its energy, and exhauſted indiſcriminately the powers of language in praiſe of favourite characters.

To the ingenuous, and the candid, ſuch addreſſes muſt ever be feeble, while the ſincere tribute of affection, ariſing from the heart, will far exceed the fulſome panegyric of ſervile adulation, and the endearing appellation of THE GOOD, be infinitely more gratifying, than the moſt pompous appellations. Even the dark era of the 12th century felt the impulſe of this ſentiment, in favour of a virtuous and generous prince, ALPHONSO THE NINTH, King of Caſtile, born in the year 1154, the only ſon of King Sancho the Third, by the lady Blanche his conſort, daughter of the moſt ſerene Don Garcia Ramirez, King of Navarre.

Though the fame of King ALPHONSO may loſe ſome degree of conſequence from the veil of antiquity, ſtill as far as the recollection of heroic conduct, and meritorious deeds, may be pleaſing to the liberal mind, it is preſumed, that theſe remote traces of Spaniſh goodneſs, and valour, will not be leſs acceptable to Britiſh candour and benevolence.

King

King Alphonſo, the renowned hero of theſe pages, ſucceeded to the dominions of his father, Don Sancho, when only an infant of three years of age, with all thoſe inconveniences, ariſing from a minority, in a high ſpirited nation, trained to arms, conſtantly in the field, jealous of each other, many of them deſcended from kings, and of boundleſs ambition.

The territories of this infant king, at the period of his father's demiſe, conſiſted of the very reſtricted kingdom of Caſtile, confined to thoſe narrow limits, delineated by his grandfather, FERDINAND THE GREAT, when he made an impolitic diviſion of his domains, amongſt his iſſue, leaving CASTILE, which, from a county, had ſuddenly ariſen into a kingdom, to his eldeſt ſon, *Don Sancho.* To this patrimony likewiſe appertained the province of Guipuſcoa, with its maritime coaſt, and the puny realm of Toledo, with its capital city, of the ſame name, annexed to ſuch patches of diſtricts contiguous thereto, in the province of Eſtremadura, as had been

wreſted from the Moors, and ſerved to animate the Caſtilians, in a ſtrife for further conqueſt, in order to exterminate the Mahometan belief, and reſtore the Gothic empire in Spain, with the Chriſtian religion, to that veneration and reſpect, in which it ſtood, previous to the fatal invaſion of the Saracens.

Such was in Caſtile, the inauſpicious period, when the infant Don ALPHONSO ſucceeded to the inheritance of his royal anceſtors. A period of ignorance and darkneſs amongſt his countrymen! while the arts and ſciences flouriſhed amongſt the Mahometans in Spain. Students in great numbers flocked to their univerſities, who applied themſelves to the ſtudy of aſtronomy, chymiſtry, and medicine, leaving us alſo, amongſt other purſuits, tranſlations of the moſt valuable writings of the Greeks, the originals of which have been ſince loſt; ſuch amongſt others as the 2nd and down to the 8th books of the Commentaries of Galen, on the 2nd and 6th book of the Epidemics of Hippocrates,

now

now only to be found in the library of the Eſcurial.

The fame of theſe learned ſchools ſeems to have reached England a few years before the birth of ALPHONSO, when, we are told, Adelard, a monk of Bath, through a love of mathematical ſcience, had ſet out on a journey to Spain, and from thence proceeded as far as Egypt, gratifying afterwards his countrymen, viz. (in 1130, with a tranſlation of Euclid, from the Arabic; and another Engliſhman, Robert de Reading, animated by the ſame motive, followed him ſoon after, for a ſimilar purpoſe.

The Spaniſh Chriſtians, on the other hand, were more reſerved, and choſe rather to ſee their children unlettered, than improve themſelves by all the erudition and ſcience they might acquire from the Mahometans, in the celebrated univerſity of Cordova, or in other famous ſchools. In other reſpects, the Caſtilians were a generous people, poſſeſſing a high ſenſe of

honour and perſonal character, and on every occaſion gave brilliant examples of manhood and proweſs. The bulk of the people were not devoid of induſtry, or attachment to commerce and adventure. The city of Conſtantinople, then in the hands of the Latins, was full of Spaniſh merchants and traders, according to the report of Benjamin de Tudela, a Jew from the city of that name, in Navarre, who in thoſe early days had journeyed into the Eaſt, and rendered himſelf conſpicuous, as the prototype of all future travellers, leaving behind him, a taſte for the marvellous, ſcarcely extinct after a lapſe of ſo many centuries.

In the preceding reign of Don SANCHO, the Caſtilians and the confederate ſovereigns of Spain, had evinced their ſpirit for martial enterpriſe, as well as naval exploit, on thoſe coaſts, which were expoſed to ſuch attacks. The Arragoneſe and Catalonians were conſiderable navigators in the Mediterranean, and ſhared with the Genoeſe and the Venetians in the lucrative

lucrative commerce of the Eaſt. Further, Raymond, Count of Barcelona, in conjunction with the fleet of Genoa, had aſſiſted the King of Caſtile in wreſting the formidable fortreſs of Almeria, in the kingdom of Granada, from the Moors (viz. in 1147), and here, the Genoeſe obtained for their ſhare of plunder, that beautiful emerald veſſel, which is ſtill ſhewn to travellers with great exultation, as one of the moſt precious jewels in their Treaſury, which the ignorance of the times had gone ſo far as to ſuppoſe, was the identical veſſel made uſe of by our bleſſed Saviour, at the Laſt Supper with his diſciples; but the hiſtorian Mariana has undeceived his countrymen, by aſſuring them, that ſuch reports are without the leaſt authority, or foundation *.

In

* The words of Mariana are as follows: *El vulgo dice que Chriſto hijo de Dios cenó en el, la poſtrera vez con ſus diſcipulos: opinion ſin autor, ni fundamento.* A modern French traveller, Monſ. de la Condamine, in his Journal of a Tour to Italy, read to the French Academy of Sciences, when he comes to ſpeak of this celebrated antique, after quoting

In the more uſeful arts of peace, and in every branch of rural economy, the Caſtilians were outdone by the Mahometans. Agriculture flouriſhed amongſt the Moors in the ſouthern parts of Spain, where every kind of cultivation was encouraged; the ſugar-cane, which had been tranſplanted from the Eaſt into Sicily, was ſucceſsfully introduced on the coaſt of Granada; and in courſe of time, it afterwards found its way to the Canary Iſlands, and from thence, after the diſcovery of the New World, was, by the Spaniſh General Nicholas de Ovando, conveyed to America.

what is ſaid of it by an Auguſtinian Monk at Genoa, in 1726, then concludes thus, "As for "what reſpects the matter of it, he maintains "that it is certainly an emerald, and his ſtrongeſt "argument is, that the matter of a veſſel which "ſerved for the ſupper wherein our Lord inſti-"tuted the auguſt Sacrament of the Euchariſt, "could not be too precious, this principle, once "admitted, would lead the author further than "he deſires, and prove equally that this diſh "ought to be a diamond."

If

If after this portrait we look towards the ſtate of religion or civil polity in Caſtile, the aſpect is leſs ſatisfactory. The ſtory is filled with the ſtrife of pontifs, and their uſurpations over the rights of temporal princes, excommunicating kings and emperors, and abſolving their ſubjects from allegiance to their lawful ſovereigns; to this hoſtile ſtatement, followed the too great increaſe of monaſtic inſtitutions *, and

* On a ſubject like this, reſpecting monaſtic foundations, which has always been a favourite ſyſtem with the Spaniſh nation, I prefer quoting Spaniſh authority. Thus I preſume I may ſafely adduce, though at a much later yet more enlightened period, the example of Philip the Second, whoſe character is ſo well known, and his conduct an univerſal theme of declamation, yet if any credit is to be given to Antonio Perez, that perſecuted genius, who as well as his father had been Secretary of State to that monarch, he particularly ſays of Philip, "That though he was ſo religious "a prince, he did not approve of thoſe multitudes "of religious orders conſtantly burſting forth on "the public, nor would he ever ſuffer the Fran-"ciſcans to ſettle themſelves in Caſtile. His "family had ſhewn great partiality to the Je-

and in progression, the application to scholastic divinity, which engaged the attention of minds, void of energy, to be ex-

" suits, and had founded different colleges for " them in Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, and other " states, yet Philip the Second was the only " prince of his house who left them no tokens of " his liberality, as it was an observation of his, " respecting these numerous foundations of reli- " gious men daily increasing in the world, " That " *it would have been much more to the purpose to reform* " *and reduce the modern ones to the discipline of their* " *original institution and integrity, than take such pains* " *for the extension of new ones, since it was much to be* " *feared, that the world would soon abound more in* " *religious men, than in religion.*" *Vida del Rey. Don Philipe 2do*, manuscript in the library of the Hon. Robert Walpole, his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of Lisbon. Though a great many years have elapsed since Mr. Walpole was pleased to communicate to me this curious manuscript, I am always happy in recollecting and gratefully acknowledging the favours with which I have been honoured by this benevolent gentleman, as well as the kindness I experienced under his hospitable roof in Lisbon, to the great benefit of my health and spirits, which I can never forget, nor the fine climate of Lisbon, and the many social days I spent in that agreeable country.

cited

cited by the brilliancy of arms, or the dangers of the ſtate. Amongſt the ſchoolmen at this time, Peter Lombard, Biſhop of Paris, and ſtiled, *the Maſter of Sentences*, took the lead *, while a diſcovery of the pandects or digeſts of the Emperor Juſtinian, found at Amalfi, in the kingdom of Naples, when that city was taken by Lotharius the Second, introduced a new ſyſtem in the ſtudy of the law, and gave an additional acumen to the intricacy of civilians, as well as to the ſubtilties of gownmen, devoted to ſophiſtry, and all the jargon of litigation.

With reſpect to ſtudies of a more ſerious nature, the ſacred writings, thoſe pure and vivid fountains of divine truth and conſolation, to the peruſal of which the ſovereigns of Spain were ſo devoutly attached, they were ſo extremely ſcarce, that from the beginning of the 10th century, one and the ſame copy of the Bible, the Epiſtles of St. Jerome, and ſome vo-

* He died in 1164.

lumes of Eccleſiaſtical Offices and Martyrologies. often ſerved ſeveral different monaſteries, while much the ſame happened in England, and in France. The Spaniards were particularly diſtinguiſhed by their attachment and frequent peruſal of the ſacred writings. Alphonſo, the firſt King of Caſtile, had ſpared no pains to ſeek after, and reſcue out of the hands of the infidels, all the copies of the Bible which he could find, that they ſhould not be profaned in their poſſeſſion; and further, to circulate them amongſt devout chriſtians, who would make the proper uſe of them. Other ſovereigns of Caſtile and Arragon are equally extolled for their frequent peruſal of theſe ſacred books. Even ſo early as in the 8th century, in 730, John, Archbiſhop of Seville, had cauſed the Bible to be tranſlated into Arabic, for the uſe of the faithful and well diſpoſed, as the Latin tongue was in a manner forgotten, and Arabic became the univerſal language of the country.

To

To revert from this digreſſion, in order to form a clear idea of the poſition and political ſtate of the infant King ALPHONSO, when the crown devolved on his tender brows; a retroſpect will be neceſſary to preceding reigns, when a prince of the houſe of Burgundy came into Caſtile, and by his marriage with URRACCA, daughter and heireſs to King ALPHONSO the Sixth, obtained that crown for his poſterity. This was RAYMOND of Burgundy, the firſt huſband of Queen URRACCA, by whom ſhe had ALPHONSO, her ſon and heir, ſtiled the Seventh, grandfather to ALPHONSO, ſirnamed THE GOOD, whoſe noble deeds we are now going to relate. Some hiſtorians call him the Eighth, becauſe Alphonſo, King of Leon, ſecond huſband to Queen URRACCA, and from whom ſhe was divorced, ſtiled himſelf the Seventh, as ſucceſſor, in right of his conſort, to King ALPHONSO the Sixth.

It was very impolitic in the ſon and heir of Queen URRACCA, to divide once more

more his dominions, inſenſible of the benefits ariſing from their union, by leaving to his eldeſt ſon Don SANCHO the kingdoms of Caſtile and Toledo, and to his ſecond ſon, Don FERDINAND, the kingdoms of LEON, OVIEDO, and GALICIA. Of his daughters, the Lady Elizabeth was married to King Lewis the Seventh, of France, the Lady Beatrix to Don SANCHO, King of Navarre, and the Lady Sancha to Don ALPHONSO the Second, King of Arragon.

The King of Caſtile, Don Sancho the Third, had been ſtiled EL DESEADO, or *the deſired*, from the earneſt wiſh of the Caſtilians at the time, for an heir to the crown, but unfortunately for the repoſe of the kingdom, that ſovereign died at Toledo, in the 23d year of his age, leaving ALPHONSO, his only ſon and heir, an infant, three years of age, a prince, who in the courſe of years, did honour to his country, and the illuſtrious race from whence he ſprung, adorned with thoſe amiable and ſhining qualities, which not only

only reflected renown on the dark age in which he lived, but would have given ſplendour to the moſt enlightened period.

The late King Don Sancho, previous to his demiſe, had appointed, as guardian to his only ſon, and as ſole regent of the kingdom, Don Guttierez Fernandez de Caſtro, who had formerly been his preceptor, and was one of the firſt lords in Caſtile allied in blood to the royal line, diſtinguiſhed as well by his prudence, and accompliſhments, as by his extenſive property and connections with many great families in the kingdom. Qualifications too conſpicuous to eſcape the envenomed ſhafts of envy, and the turbulent ſpirit of faction. This preference therefore only ſerved to ſtimulate the jealouſy of other Caſtilian lords, mortified to behold De Caſtro inveſted with a power that ſeemed to equalize him with a ſovereign; a ſituation too feeling for their pride, and the high notions they entertained of their own dignity and conſequence. A factious ſpirit immediately broke out amongſt the nobles,

nobles, fomented by the illuſtrious houſe of LARA, which, beſides its jealouſy of that of CASTRO, thought itſelf eclipſed by the exaltation of a rival. The hereditary piques between thoſe two great houſes now blazed forth with additional ferment, and they eagerly ſeized the opportunity to diſplay their animoſities and reſentment.

At this critical juncture, the King of Arragon, uncle to the infant King of Caſtile, jealous alſo of being neglected in the arrangement of the regency, thought the moment favourable to avail himſelf, for his own intereſt, of his nephew's embarraſſment. For this purpoſe he accommodated his politics to his perſonal views, and without further ceremony, marched an army into Caſtile, and lay ſiege to the city of Calatrava; but the active regent De Caſtro put himſelf at the head of the brave and loyal Caſtilians, attacked and defeated the troops of Arragon, and obliged them to return home. Such activity and good conduct ſhould ſeemingly have evinced how worthy De Caſtro had ſhewn himſelf

himſelf of the high poſt conferred upon him; but the ſpirit of party and faction was blind to ſuch conſiderations, or any attention to real merit, as unfortunately is too often the caſe, when ſelf intereſt is the main ſpring, and ambition becomes the incitement, to oppoſe the moſt ſalutary meaſures.

The three brothers of the houſe of LARA, viz. Don Manrique, Don Alvaro Perez, and Don Nuno de Lara, united themſelves to their friends, with a determined reſolution to oppoſe the meaſures of De Caſtro, and wreſt the regency out of his hands, by which means they were to get full poſſeſſion of power, and ſecure the adminiſtration of affairs for themſelves and their party.

For this purpoſe, a nobleman of high birth, Don Garcia de Hiza, *Alferez Mayor*, or Great Standard Bearer of Caſtile, was prevailed upon, by the Laras, to join in their views. The regent De Caſtro, foreſeeing the fatal conſequences of ſuch animated

animated ſtrife, prudently reſigned at this period the guardianſhip of the infant King, and the cuſtody of his perſon, to the Great Standard Bearer of Caſtile abovementioned, whoſe mother, the Counteſs de Cabra, after the deceaſe of her huſband, had been married again to the Count Don Pedro de Lara, by whom ſhe had the three noblemen of the Houſe of Lara, juſt ſpoken of. By means of this affinity, and De Hiza being moreover a perſon of little ſpirit, a mere court pageant, inſignificantly loitering about the palace, he was eaſily prevailed upon; the dignity of his office faintly ſupplied the vacancy of perſonal merit, and added a trifling weight to the party, at the head of which Count Manrique de Lara, the eldeſt brother, and heir to all the dignities of that illuſtrious houſe, ſtood forward, and avowed himſelf the oſtenſible leader: while the Standard Bearer De Hiza tamely concurred in all their meaſures, and ungratefully abandoned his Sovereign in his diſtreſs!

The

The kingdom of Caſtile was now become a prey to all the violence of party rage and faction, at which period De Caſtro ended his days in quiet, lamenting the misfortunes of his country. Some there were, ſince it is impoſſible to pleaſe all minds, who, regardleſs of his merit, had not regretted his retreat; while they did juſtice to his manhood and ſtern virtue, ſimilar to the rough Goths of former days in Caſtile. But if he ended his days in peace, it happened not ſo with his adherents.—Although the regent De Caſtro left no legitimate iſſue, his nephews were men of high ſpirit, equal in valour and ambition to their opponents: they eagerly ſtood forward to regain their former intereſt: but profeſſions for the public good, and actions, too often vary conſiderably. The party of De Caſtro evinced the ſame thirſt for perſonal emolument, as thoſe they oppoſed; ſuch are the foibles of human nature, whenever the public tranquillity is diſturbed, and ſecondary objects are brought forward by deſigning men, who

who loſe ſight of the happineſs of their country.

Don Roderic de Caſtro, brother to the late Regent, had left four ſons, all highly incenſed at the treatment ſhewn by the Laras to their late uncle. Of theſe, Fernan Ruiz de Caſtro, the eldeſt, was Lord Chamberlain to Ferdinand King of Leon, uncle to the King of Caſtile, and after repudiating his firſt wife, had married the Lady Stefania, natural daughter of King *Alphonſo* the Seventh, grandfather to the young King of Caſtile.—The next brother, Guttierez de Caſtro, was Lord of Lemos, and Alcaide, or Governor of Toledo. The other two brothers Don Pedro, and Don Alvaro, poſſeſſed fair eſtates in Caſtile, with the title of *Ricos-hombres*. The next in dignity in thoſe days after the blood royal: one of their ſiſters, the Lady Aldonza, was married to Don Diego Lopez de Haro, ſovereign Lord of Biſcay; and the other, the Lady Urraca, was the wife of Don Alvaro Perez de Guzman, a great Lord in Caſtile, from whom the

Ducal

Ducal house of Medina Sidonia derives its descent*. But before we proceed any

* The Ducal house of Medina Sidonia is of great antiquity, and has furnished Queens to Spain, Portugal, and England: on account of their distinguished loyalty and attachment to their sovereigns, they also enjoy by grant from the crown, the pleasing appellation of *El Bueno*, or, The Good. Sir Richard Fanshaw, Ambassador at Madrid from the British Court, in the reign of Charles the Second, in one of his dispatches to Mr. Secretary Bennet, dated 22 Nov. 1664, particularly mentions the extreme sensibility of one of these Dukes of Medina Sidonia, which he thus relates: "The manner of this Duke's death, (like "his quality) was extraordinary. His Excel-"lency was, for his diversion and recreation, "being, as then in good health to all outward "appearance, and not much stricken in years, at "a town of his own, not far from Valladolid, "where you know his constant appointed abode "was; in that place of recreation his Excellency "had some number of dogs newly given him; "the which, looking out of his windows, he hap-"pened to see worrying a poor woman. They "neither killed nor maimed her; but the Duke's "apprehension was so great, they would do the "one or the other, that violently crying out from "the place where he was, unto his people to pre-

"vent

any further reſpecting the family of De Caſtro, and their public conduct, the tragic end of the Lady Stefania de Caſtilla, conſort to their eldeſt brother, is a private incident, ſo very ſtriking and remarkable,

" vent it, he fell into a ſudden extacy; from that " into a deep melancholy; and from that into a " fever; which diſpatched him before his phyſi- " cians could come from Valladolid: ſo thereby " verifying in this particular the ſirname of his " family, *De puro* BUENO *murio.*

" I do underſtand that the new Duke, his ſon, " may now live at *St. Lucar*, in virtue of his mar- " riage articles with the daughter of Don Lewis " de Haro, which I do heartily wiſh, for the ſin- " gular obligation which Engliſhmen have ever " had to deſire the proſperity of that illuſtrious " family, and now more than ever, heretofore."

——— This noble Duke, like others of his family, was not leſs conſpicuous for his good nature, according to his title, than his other diſtinctions of high rank and fortune.—With reſpect to his own relations, he was particularly kind and benevolent; and if any of them allied to him either by paternal, or maternal deſcent, ſuffered from any accidents of fortune, owing to wars or other troubles of the times, upon their being introduced to him, he was always ready to bring them forward according to their merit, and render their ſituation more comfortable and pleaſant. *See Appendix (A.)*

that

that we cannot reſiſt a few moment's interruption to relate it, as ſhe was unjuſtly put to death, through the jealous temper and violent ſuſpicion of her huſband; which fatal event is thus related by that eminent hiſtorian, the Count Don Pedro de Portugal.

It ſeems the waiting maid of this Lady Stefania had an intrigue with a perſon who uſed to viſit her privately at night, in the garden appertaining to the palace of Fernan de Caſtro. At theſe interviews, the frail female uſed to wrap herſelf up in a mantle belonging to her Lady. This deceived an eſquire of De Caſtro, who immediately gave private intimation thereof to his Lord. The irritated huſband poſted himſelf the next night in the garden, to be certain, as he thought, of the infidelity of his conſort; and with the determined reſolution of puniſhing with death the cauſe of his diſhonour. The event happened; the empaſſioned Count drew his poignard, flew at the ſtranger, and pierced him to the heart;—then purſued

the

the affrighted female, who had taken ſhelter in an adjoining apartment: De Caſtro moſt violently agitated, found the Counteſs in bed, faſt aſleep; who awakening in great terror, aſked what was the matter? when her huſband, without uttering a word, inſtantly plunged his dagger into her boſom. In vain the waiting maid, ruſhing into the chamber, with frightful ſcreams, endeavoured to aſſert the innocence of her Lady; and when lights were brought, ſhe was ſeen, ſtill wearing the mantle of the unfortunate Counteſs. The unhappy huſband, adding deſpair to the violence of his paſſion, with the ſame poignard put her inſtantly to death. Then, overwhelmed with grief and anguiſh, as ſoon as his firſt guſt of paſſion had ſubſided, he cloathed himſelf in ſackcloth, with a halter about his neck, and a poignard in his hand, and went to proſtrate himſelf, in the moſt doleful plight, at the feet of the King of Leon, moſt humbly ſupplicating mercy and pardon for his error and crime, which the King very compaſſionately granted, received him

again

again into favour, and according to the genius of thoſe times, deemed him to be held as a truſty Knight.

To return to the Houſe of Lara, after theſe details reſpecting that of Caſtro, it will appear, they were no leſs diſtinguiſhed and illuſtrious; and their friends knew well how to add to the fineſſe of political intrigue all thoſe means which tend to captivate the multitude. Their party conſiſted of ſome great and elevated characters, whoſe genius and brilliant talents were conſpicuous; and when the *Cortes* were ſitting, bore teſtimony of their eloquence and political knowledge: others held the aſſembly in ſuſpence by the powers of oratory and language, painted every incident in the moſt glowing colours; and in imitation of the orientals, trod in the flowery paths of luxuriant fancy.

As for Count Manrique de Lara, he gave up his thoughts to political purſuits, and ſpared no pains in popular meetings, from which his friends indulged themſelves with

expectations, in addition to the politeneſs of his addreſs and manners, which were gentle and affable, becoming his rank, and well adapted to his high birth and deſcent from the royal line.

From this animated competition, nothing but contention ſeemed likely to be the reſult. In addition to the efforts of theſe leaders, new calumnies were raiſed by the inferior agents of faction againſt the late Regent De Caſtro and his friends.—To render his memory odious, the moſt invidious reports were circulated amongſt the people of his fondneſs of arbitrary power, as a man inimical to liberty, and deſirous to extend the prerogative of the Crown beyond its due limits, in not ſurrendering the government of the cities, whereas in fact they had been ſettled on the parties by the late King's will, to be held by them during the minority of the Sovereign.

The bulk of the people, heated by theſe artful ſuggeſtions, were not over rigorous in examining

examining poſitions partially ſtated to anſwer particular purpoſes. Inflamed by the rage of the moment, they aſſembled in great numbers to the terror of the *Cortes* then ſitting, and led on by a ſet of needy hirelings, encouraged by a violent enthuſiaſt, they attempted to ſet fire to the city of Toledo; in many places broke open the priſons, entered the churches, opened the grave of the late Regent Fernandez de Caſtro, and with ſhocking inhumanity, inſulted his remains, declaring him a Traitor; however, tranquility being reſtored, and judges appointed to try the offenders, they were found guilty, and ſentenced to condign puniſhment; the remains of the Regent were ordered to be replaced with becoming decency, the ſepulchre to be repaired, and every tribute paid to his memory, declaring him innocent of the charge of high treaſon, in not ſurrendering the truſt committed to him by the late King's will, and to continue during the minority of the Sovereign, who had never ſummoned him to that effect; nevertheleſs, the relations of the injured Stateſ-

man, irritated by this freſh inſult to his memory, ſacrificed all conſiderations to that of revenge; the love of liberty was loſt amidſt the guſts of tumultuous paſſion, and the moſt deſperate exceſſes were the reſult of ſuch intemperate ſtrife.

In this manner, while the power of the Crown remained weak, during the King's minority, was the kingdom of Caſtile rent and torn by faction and ambition; and ſuch was the prelude ſeemingly inauſpicious to the reign of ALPHONSO, one of the beſt Monarchs who ever ſwayed the ſceptre of Caſtile, a Prince whoſe victories and triumphs over the Infidels, in addition to his love of virtue and juſtice, laid a ſolid foundation for the happineſs of his people, while his general character diſplayed the benevolent Sovereign, and was juſtly recorded by the glorious appellation of THE GOOD, a magnanimous Prince, whoſe memory has been handed down to poſterity by a loyal people, with every ſentiment of gratitude and affection.

The King of Leon, animated by his Chamberlain De Caſtro, and other diſcontented Lords in Caſtile, needed no further inducement to aggrandize his dominion at the expence of his infant nephew, under pretence of attending to his education. Ties of blood were of little avail in oppoſition to politics, or the ſtrict rules of juſtice in competition with ſelf intereſt.—It had no effect on the aſpiring Ferdinand, that his nephew ALPHONSO, a helpleſs infant, was united to him by the dear ties of conſanguinity, and to whom as a Chriſtian Prince, he was bound by every moral obligation and honour, to ſhew the utmoſt regard in ſight of a hoſt of infidels, whoſe corrupt ſyſtem he abhorred; yet in further proof of the contradictions of mankind, when governed by their jealouſies and paſſions, every meaſure of rectitude was gloſſed over, and a fatal example given to their Mahometan foes, at a period, when a fair opportunity offered to diſplay thoſe virtues which ſhould ſhine in the boſom of a generous Prince in behalf of his nephew, ſurrounded by a turbulent

faction; but if ſuch ſparks of magnanimity exiſted in the heart of the Sovereign of Leon, they were ſoon extinguiſhed by the inſinuations of Fernan de Caſtro, whoſe principal friends were ſoothed and gained over by largeſſes, and expectations of power, while their inferiors were lulled by fair words, and magnificent promiſes. The cities of Burgos, and Toledo, were ſoon poſſeſſed, by the troops of Leon, with the adjacent country; and likewiſe the revenues of Caſtile. Elated with this ſucceſs, the King of Leon marched to the north of Caſtile, and reached the city of Soria, where his nephew, King ALPHONSO, reſided, not ſatisfied until he got poſſeſſion of his perſon. The inhabitants, in a ſtate of deſpair, were obliged to ſubmit, and opened their gates. Ferdinand demanded to be conducted to his nephew, that he might receive homage from him, as his vaſſal, and promiſing to appoint De Lara to the Regency. This unexpected ſummons ſo diſconcerted the loyal citizens of Soria, that having aſſembled in council, they determined through neceſſity to deliver

liver up the infant King to Manrique de Lara, who had entruſted him to their charge, at the ſame time ſaying to him, "We now conſign to your care, and "cuſtody, the perſon of our King and "Liege Lord, as free as when you de-"livered him to us; be it now your charge, "Sir, to preſerve him ſo." By which expreſſions theſe loyal Caſtilians did honour to their feelings, and to the renown of their celebrated city, built on the remains of the famous NUMANTIA, ſo noted for the courage and fidelity of its citizens, and the long ſiege they ſuſtained againſt the Romans.

Juſt when they were in the act of conducting the young King home from the council, a loyal Cavalier Nuno Almexir, well mounted, wreſted the King out of their hands, and covering him with his mantle, rode off in full ſpeed to the town of Santeſtevarn, from whence the next day, for greater ſecurity, by the deſire of Lara, the King was con-

veyed further, while this nobleman, under pretence of producing the Sovereign of Caſtile to the King of Leon, had made a ſham to purſue the fugitive.

When King Ferdinand heard what had happened, he ſent De Lara a challenge, but this being ſlighted, the King repeated it afterwards in perſon to Lara, who made this reply; "I do not know, Sire, whe-
"ther I may be deemed loyal or diſloyal,
"but this I know, that in what I have
"done, I have reſcued from vaſſalage the
"tender infant my Sovereign Lord, whoſe
"liege ſubject I am;" which reply was deemed a ſufficient clearance from diſloyalty, in not having complied with the injunctions forcibly impoſed on him by the King of Leon.

So fatal is example, in the vortex of politics, as well in public, as in private life, that King ALPHONSO was no ſooner reſcued out of the hands of his uncle, the King of Leon, than he was attacked from another quarter, by his uncle the King of Navarre.

This

This Monarch ſeemed as deeply verſed in political intrigue, as the Sovereign of Leon, and as eager to ſeize on the territories of his nephew of Caſtile. Thinking therefore the moment favourable for his purpoſe, he likewiſe muſtered his forces, and made an inroad into Caſtile, through the province of Rioja, which he entered rapidly, and ſurpriſed the city of Logrono, on the banks of the river Ebro, from thence without meeting any reſiſtance, he advanced as far as Bribieſca, the diſtracted and defenceleſs ſtate of the country not admitting of the leaſt oppoſition; the ſame diſorder prevailing in many parts of Caſtile, which were either in the hands of the King's enemies, or the factions which ſided with one, or the other party of Caſtro, or Lara: mean time the young King remained in the city of Avila, in old Caſtile, until he was 12 years of age, where he was carefully educated, and well guarded, for the better effecting of which a loyal aſſociation of gentry and yeomanry of the city of Avila, very much to their credit, formed themſelves into a volunteer corps

of light horſe, conſiſting of 150 men, well mounted, cloathed, and equipped at their own expence, did military duty, guarded the King's perſon, and attended on him every where; and from this ſignal proof of their loyalty, the city of Avila has been ever ſince diſtinguiſhed by the title of Avila *The Faithful.* If we are pleaſed with ſuch inſtances of affection to their Sovereign in thoſe remote ages, with how much more ſatisfaction do we witneſs ſimilar ſpecimens of loyalty, ſo ſplendid and numerous in our own country, in the preſent day, which muſt fill every Britiſh heart with rapture and delight. With reſpect to the city of Avila, it was well adapted for the education and ſafety of a Chriſtian Prince, not only from the ſtrength of its fortifications, which had been erected by King Alphonſo the VIth, but moreover from the good character of its inhabitants, celebrated for their moral and exemplary conduct, which continued from father to ſon for many ages.

Amongſt

Amongſt other gentlemen's families who reſided there, none were more diſtinguiſhed in the 16th century, than that of Don Alphonſo Sanchez de Cepeda, whoſe daughter Tereſa attracted the attention of Europe, and was ſo much admired on account of her virtues and piety, as to be enrolled in the calendar of Saints. This gentleman had the misfortune to loſe his wife, and to be left with nine children, when Tereſa, his favourite daughter, was only twelve years of age. In her early days, in addition to the diſſipation of youth, ſhe entirely devoted her time to the reading of romances and novels, with which ſhe ſeemed to be highly enraptured, to the great grief of her father, who, before theſe dangerous books had vitiated her mind, had the happineſs, by his prudence and affectionate care, to ſee a total change in her ſentiments and conduct, to ſo eminent a degree, that ſhe became the moſt diſtinguiſhed pattern of virtue, piety, and religion. If then the city of Avila has called to recollection the loyalty of the volunteer ſoldier, I truſt the fair readers of my own country, ſo conſpicuous

for every virtue, will not be diſpleaſed at my producing from the ſame city ſo brilliant an example of female accompliſhments and perfection, which our Engliſh poet, Craſhaw, has handed down to poſterity *.

Great part of the kingdom of Caſtile and its fortreſſes were now in the poſſeſſion of the troops of Leon: ſtill ſuch faithful Caſtilians as had it in their power, were

* See Craſhaw's Poems.—Savoy 1670.

We have the life of St. Tereſa, written by herſelf, and all her other excellent works, except her Letters tranſlated into Engliſh by Ab. Woodhead, 2 vols. 4to, 1699. She died on the 15th October 1582, aged 68.—She choſe for her motto, *aut pati aut mori*. The city of Avila is pleaſantly ſituated on the river Adaſa, in a fertile plain, abounding in vineyards and fruit trees. It is a Biſhop's See, with an Univerſity of good repute. The city is moreover famous for the ſobriety and induſtry of its inhabitants, and its woollen manufactures. In the vicinity of Avila, near the village of Mengravilla, there is a moſt curious mine of Rock Salt—you deſcend into it by a ſubterraneous paſſage of 200 ſteps, when an immenſe cavern of ſalt is obſerved, ſupported by an enormous chryſtaline pillar, which has a moſt ſtriking effect.

eager

eager to follow the loyal example of Avila. The King made ſeveral excurſions, attended by his volunteer corps, and was received every where with the loudeſt acclamations. Their principal hopes were to regain the city of Toledo, then under the government of De Caſtro, in conjunction with the King's enemies; finally the loyal inhabitants of that city, wearied out with the oppreſſions they laboured under, determined to declare openly, in favour of King Alphonſo, a loyal gentleman, named Don Stephen ILAN, mortified to ſee his country in ſuch a ſituation, found means privately, with the aid of his friends, to introduce King Alphonſo into the Tower of Roman in the city of Toledo; after which, on a ſignal given, diſplaying from that tower the royal banner of Caſtile; the people immediately ſhouted, LONG LIVE KING ALPHONSO, TOLEDO FOR ALPHONSO KING OF CASTILE!

Thus the loyal citizens of Toledo, unwilling to be any longer the dupes of faction, or of the views of deſigning men, rejoiced

rejoiced to ſee their young Sovereign, whom they received with all tranſport and reſpect, becoming ſpirited and dutiful ſubjects. Don Stephen ILAN was appointed *Alcaide*, or governor of Toledo, and farther remunerated for his loyalty.—At a future period, the picture of ILAN armed *cap a pied*, mounted on a ſuperb courſer, was by a decree of the chapter painted in the cathedral of Toledo, at the back of the choir, in grateful remembrance of his ſervices to his country, in freeing the city from its enemies, and the further dangers to be dreaded from the violent ſtruggles of diſloyalty and faction.

All was rejoicing in the city of Toledo. The clergy were equally zealous in inſpiring the people with reſpect for religion, allegiance to their Sovereign, and a due ſubmiſſion to legal authority, with a love of good order and peaceable demeanour. The cathedral of Toledo received much about that time favours from an Engliſhman, Nicholas Breakſpear, who under the name of ADRIAN THE IV, was the only perſon

perſon of his country who ever filled the papal chair. He granted and confirmed to the See of Toledo the primacy over all the churches of Spain, annulling the decree of Pope Calixtus the 2d, who had exempted the Sees of Merida and Braga from the primacy of Toledo, and obliged the archbiſhop of Braga to acknowledge it.

The French hiſtorian Fleury, has related the converſation that paſſed between Pope Adrian, and his countryman, John of Saliſbury, in which the latter reminds the Pontif openly of his great attachment to temporal concerns and neglect of the church: however, as he had riſen from the moſt humble ſtation in life to the moſt exalted dignity, perhaps during the ſhort period of his pontificate, he may have poſſeſſed qualities to compenſate in ſome degree for public imperfections, that have not eſcaped the notice of our own hiſtorians; therefore, as an Engliſhman, peace be to his remains, as the other parts of his character are foreign to the ſubject before us.

To return to the military affairs of Caſtile, De Caſtro retreated to the ſtrong city of Huete, garriſoned by his friends, and where the loyal party of Alphonſo determined to attack him. A bloody combat enſued, where many fell on both ſides, and ſeemingly to the advantage of De Caſtro, as here Manrique de Lara was ſlain by an eſquire of De Caſtro, which contributed much to inflame the animoſities of both parties, and gave occaſion to a variety of ſanguinary conflicts, in which ſeveral noble perſons loſt their lives, to the great detriment and prejudice of the kingdom.

Though the friends of Alphonſo hitherto had no great ſucceſs in the field, they ſtill formed hopes that the ſtrong citadel of Zurita would ſoon ſubmit to them, and therefore reſolved to lay ſiege to it. The governor, Lope de Arenas, then held it under power of the late Regent de Caſtro, to be continued during the King's minority; every preparation however was made for the attack. At this critical mo-

ment,

ment, Don Diego Lope de Haro, a grandee of Caſtile, and Sovereign Lord of Biſcay, volunteered his ſervices, and haſtened from Biſcay to the aid of King Alphonſo; the ſiege was obſtinate, terms were offered to the governor, but inſtead of liſtening to them, he detained the meſſengers ſent to him; finally, what could not be effected by force of arms, was gained by ſtratagem. In conſequence of a variety of circumſtances too tedious to relate, a ſervant of the governor's, named Dominguez, vilely concerted a ſcheme to aſſaſſinate his maſter, and deliver up the fortreſs; thus perfidiouſly abuſing of the confidence placed in a ſervant of truſt, he entered the apartment of his maſter, and while he was ſhaving himſelf, pierced him in the back with a lance, and killed him on the ſpot, at which moment the troops of Alphonſo, on a ſignal given, ruſhing forward, ſeized the fortreſs, and proclaimed Don Alphonso King of Caſtile, then returned victorious to Toledo, after which the gallant Lopez de Haro went back to Biſcay, refuſing to accept of any remuneration

ration whatſoever, knowing the diſtreſſed ſtate of the country.

The ſervant Dominguez appearing to receive his reward, a purſe of gold was tendered to him, but ſhortly after, ſome people fell upon him, and put him to death, that ſo treacherous an example from a ſervant to his maſter, ſhould not paſs unpuniſhed.

De Caſtro, after theſe ſignal diſappointments, reſigned his commiſſion, and fled to the ſouthward, and took refuge with the Mooriſh King of Cordova, where, like a man void of honeſt principle, he now ſided with the Mahometans, the inveterate enemies of his religion and country, and contrary to his allegiance, accepted from the Infidels of the command of a body of troops, at the head of which, animated by treachery and revenge, for to what lengths will not revenge lead thoſe, who have loſt a love for their country, De Caſtro ſhamefully bore arms againſt his Sovereign, and was the occaſion of much bloodſhed and ſlaughter.

ſlaughter. On one occaſion he was attacked by Count Oſorio his father-in-law, who fell in battle, as did Alvaro de Lara, whoſe two brothers, Roderic and Guttierez, were taken priſoners, but obtained leave to carry off the corpſe of their brother Alvaro, and return home on their parole of honour, which they both afterwards eluded under various pretences.

Nothing but unhappineſs and misfortune were the lot of De Caſtro. Beſides, being the cauſe of the death of his father-in-law, he had repudiated his wife, with whom he lived on bad terms, and the conjugal tie being diſſolved, had married the Lady Stephania, whom he ſtill more unfortunately put to death, as we have already ſtated; ſo that nothing but miſery and affliction were ſeen over the country, which may ſerve as an example to all future ages, of the evil conſequences ariſing from ſuch unbecoming jealouſies and diſloyal conduct.

However,

However, the ſpirit of faction now ſeemed exhauſted; tranquility, as well as good order, began to ſhew itſelf in the capital of Toledo; a diſplay of loyalty was viſible in all ranks, and in every countenance, ſome few of the loweſt claſſes excepted, too contemptible, and in a manner undeſerving of notice: yet for this once, and by way of variety, a trifling inſtance may be brought forward.

It happened one day in the city of Toledo, as two ſtudents were croſſing the market-place on a market day, and a great crowd aſſembled, they were accoſted in a menacing tone by an inſolent cobler, who deſired them to explain the meaning of the Letters S P Q T, affixed in front of the market, ſaying, he had been informed it implied, they were all to be ſeverely flogged, and he did not know for what. Very true, replied the ſtudent, theſe letters have been ſaid to mean as follows:

S *epan*
P *or mui cierto,*
Q *ue quien diere mal peſo,*
T *iene de levar cien azotes* *.

which is intended for the butchers in the market, as it threatens them with a hundred laſhes, when they ſell their meat by falſe weights, but theſe are a ſet of men neceſſary to ſociety, they know the laws, and doubtleſs will obſerve them. As for your part, ſaid the ſtudent, this does not regard you; however, for your ſatisfaction, I will tell you what I rather conceive to be the real, and original meaning of theſe letters, which ſignify

Submiſſion *to the laws,*
Placidity *of temper,*
Quinteſſence *of good order,*
Tranquility *and happineſs.*

Believe me then, my good man, perhaps you don't know the old proverb which I

* Floresta Espanol *por Melchior de Santa Cruz de Toledo. Dirigido al Excell. Senor Don Juan de Auſtria. Salamanca, 1592.*

learnt

learnt at ſchool, "let not the ſhoe-maker go beyond his laſt." Therefore, if you are wiſe, and love your country, go home quietly, mind your own buſineſs, and your family, if you have any, leaſt you might perhaps deſerve a good flogging likewiſe; which the ſtudent had no ſooner uttered, than the byſtanders, obſerving the good humour with which he delivered himſelf, laughed moſt heartily at the cobler, who ſhrunk from the crowd, and hid himſelf in ſome corner unperceived, as did moſt of his comrades and aſſociates, who being treated with ſimilar contempt, fled from the city in all directions, ſo that none were more to be ſeen, not even the moſt reſolute and hardy.

SECTION

SECTION II.

A. D. 1170. IF it is painful to the hiſtorian to relate, and muſt be ſtill more to the benevolent to hear, the fatal conſequences ariſing from ſtrife and ambition, with all thoſe foibles and misfortunes incident to human weakneſs; with how much more ſatisfaction do we now revert to ſcenes of a more pleaſing nature, and behold the return of tranquility and ſocial order, with the practice of thoſe noble deeds, which muſt ever afford a lively gratification to the generous mind.

Such then was the caſe with the young ALPHONSO, at the fortunate period, when, in addition to his poſſeſſing the city of Toledo, and the important fortreſs of Zurita, all the other cities of his dominions followed their loyal example, and every where proclaimed their beloved ALPHONSO King of Caſtile.

The

The good ſenſe of the people now began to diſplay itſelf univerſally. The Caſtilians, wearied out with the ſhedding each others blood to no purpoſe, became ſenſible of the benefits of tranquility, and the happineſs of enjoying in quiet thoſe bleſſings they ſo eagerly expected; it was now deemed convenient to aſſemble the CORTES or Grand Council of the nation in the city of Burgos. The King having attained the age of 15, was declared to be out of his minority, and of courſe enabled to take the reins of government into his own hands, according to the laws and privileges of the kingdom.

The principal object of the CORTES, after ſettling the more immediate exigencies of the ſtate, and ordering all forts and towns to be ſurrendered to the King by their reſpective governors, under pain of high treaſon, was to find a proper conſort for their young Sovereign, in order that by an honourable and advantageous alliance, he might be in a better ſituation to give permanency and happineſs to his diſtracted

diſtracted dominions, beſides affording an heir to the crown, and in every reſpect ſhewing himſelf to be a good Prince, who only wiſhed to poſſeſs the hearts of his ſubjects, and according to law, defend, and reign over a free and loyal people.

For theſe auſpicious ends, no alliance ſeemed ſo promiſing, as with the accompliſhed Princeſs ELEONORA of England, daughter to the moſt potent King, HENRY THE II. by his Queen, the Lady ELEONORA, Dutcheſs in her own right of Guyenne and Gaſcony, and Counteſs of Poictou, being daughter and heireſs of William the X. laſt Duke of thoſe ſtates, and who had been married to Henry King of England, after her divorce from Lewis King of France.

Beſides the many amiable qualities of the Engliſh Princeſs ELEONORA, ſhe was in her perſon, remarkably fair and beautiful, and in every reſpect accompliſhed. Moreover, the eſtates of her mother lying contiguous to the province of Guypuſcoa,

belonging to Caſtile, the proſpect ſeemed additionally flattering, as it offered a ray of hope, at ſome favourable period, of further acquiſition on that ſide, and of extending the territories of Caſtile towards France, by the alliance with the daughter of ſo powerful a Monarch as HENRY King of England, a Sovereign held in the higheſt reſpect by all the Princes of Chriſtendom, and no leſs revered, for his great perſonal qualities, than dreaded for his extenſive power and authority.

To negotiate this alliance, ambaſſadors were ſent from the court of Caſtile, to the King of England, who, with his Queen, were then in Guyenne. This embaſſy conſiſted of the Archbiſhop of Toledo, the Biſhop of Palencia, and a lordly train of Prelates and Knights. The propoſals being accepted, the young and gallant King ALPHONSO determined on a journey towards Guyenne to meet his future moſt beautiful bride: Meſſengers were alſo diſpatched to his uncle, the King of Arragon, appriſing that Sovereign of his intention,

and

and deſiring at the ſame happy moment, to ſettle amicably all matters of conteſt between them, and that he would give the King of Arragon the meeting in the city of Saragoſſa. This intimation being received with equal cordiality by the King of Arragon, the ſprightly ALPHONSO, ſplendidly attended by many youthful Lords, proceeded to the city of Saragoſſa, in a ſtile of pomp, becoming a juvenile Monarch going to wed one of the faireſt Princeſſes in Europe, whoſe elegant form, could only be exceeded by the endowments of her mind, improved by an education perfectly adapted to her perſonal and mental accompliſhments. As to her perſon, her complexion was the faireſt; in addition to the admired bloom of her ſex in England, this Princeſs united the happy ſerenity and temper of her country, with the cheerfulneſs of France, which enlivened a countenance, that at the ſame time proclaimed virtue and innocence; on the whole, forming a portrait, that would have baffled the rich colouring of Rubens, or the ſublime expreſſion of Raphael.

The perſon of King ALPHONSO was no leſs elegant and engaging; moreover, a dignified mien, and majeſtic deportment, ſoftened by affable manners, and eaſy addreſs, coincided with martial vivacity, and the frankneſs of youth, to gain the affections of all ranks, and ſeemed to emblemize his greatneſs of ſoul, and goodneſs of heart.

The ancient city of Saragoſſa was well ſuited for the reception of the royal pair: Its portly edifices, ſpacious ſtreets, and ſquares, dignified the memory of its ancient and poliſhed inhabitants, ſtill bearing traces of the name of CESAR AUGUSTUS, who founded a colony there, and left unequivocal proofs of his taſte, in chooſing this agreeable ſituation, in an extenſive plain watered by the river Ebro, where it receives two other rivers, that contribute in no ſmall degree to the beauty of the landſcape. No wonder then, that the Spaniards are ſo laviſh in their encomiums on this delightful ſpot: as to the Ebro, it acquired its name from its ebrioſity, in

ſwallowing

ſwallowing ſo much water, by receiving thirty other rivers in its courſe, from whence the inhabitants ſay of it, *Me llame Ebro, porque de tantas aguas bevo.*

The court of Saragoſſa became on this occaſion uncommonly ſplendid, by a ſucceſſion of ſumptuous feſtivities, ſuch as the ardour of youth, and love inſpired, in thoſe days of chivalry, countenanced by a gallant and amorous Sovereign. Every day was ſucceeded by new and ingenious devices; juſts and tournaments were the paſtimes of the forenoon, where ALPHONSO ſurpaſſed his nobles in the dextrous management of his horſe, and agility in brandiſhing the lance. The evenings were dedicated to banquets, poetry, and muſic. The praiſes of the good, and of the valiant, were chaunted by the Trobadours, who being kindly received in Arragon, vied with each other in elegance of compoſition, and harmony of verſe, to which the ſoftneſs of the provenzal, was peculiarly adapted: the whole enhanced by the magnificence of the two Sovereigns,

in affording to all preſent, the moſt pleaſing examples of curteſy, benevolence, and affection.—We may form ſome idea of the brilliancy of theſe feſtivals, in recollecting that arts and ſciences had already found their way there, along with oriental ſplendour; inſomuch that every kind of coſtly attire, and rich veſtments, were in uſe, as well as pearls and precious ſtones, while the mines of Spain furniſhed ſilver, and other valuable metals, which the artiſts from the Eaſt wrought with uncommon perfection. Such was the city of Saragoſſa, at a period, when the houſes in the city of London were in general indifferently built of wood, and meanly covered with ſtraw. So little were our anceſtors in thoſe days in poſſeſſion of the architectural arts, or of the method of hewing of ſtone, that even ſome years after the time under preſent conſideration (viz. in 1187), when the church of St. Paul's in London was conſumed by fire, and a new edifice on a larger ſcale begun, erected on arches of ſtone, it gave the greateſt ſurpriſe to the ſpectators to behold the ſtone imported

from

from Normandy, already hewn for conſtruction; from whence we may infer, that if Alphonſo had proceeded to London, in queſt of his royal bride, he would have formed a ſlender idea of our taſte and refinement; for although the renown of our King Henry had filled Europe with his proweſs, the bulk of the Engliſh nation were rather in a ſtate of abjection, and the people ſold for ſlaves in the public markets, like cattle, and exported to Ireland, in the ſame manner as is yet practiſed with the Negroes of Guinea, by the traders of Liverpool and Briſtol; and this was done in ſuch a manner, even then by the Engliſh, that the Iriſh, a martial nation, famed long before this period, for their valour as well as zeal for religion, and every chriſtian virtue, were ſhocked at the infamous traffic, and much to their credit, with the concurrence of the clergy, not only put a final ſtop to it in their country, but further, gave immediate freedom to all thoſe, who were then in a ſtate of ſlavery, amongſt them.

The ſame baſe diſpoſition prevailed alike in France, where Hugh de Champfleuri, Biſhop of Soiſſons, on leaving the altar, after performing the moſt pious rites of religion, was ſeen ſelling two women and three men at a public fair, in exchange for a horſe.

To return from this melancholy portrait to the gay Court of Saragoſſa; that nothing ſhould be wanting to celebrate this happy alliance, the two Kings renewed all treaties of amity, and mutual defence between the two Crowns, to extend againſt all powers whatſoever, the King of England excepted. The towns and forts in conteſt were reciprocally given up, and every conſideration yielded to the auſpicious moment, when love and harmony were to be the bonds of alliance, between the illuſtrious Monarchs of England and of Caſtile.

Every thing that affection inſpired, was employed by the Sovereign of Arragon, in favour of his nephew, and every token of regard, friendſhip, and gallantry was offered

offered to his royal uncle by the Sovereign of Caſtile. So pleaſing a theme became doubly enchanting to the Arragoneſe bards, improved by the Trobadours, who not only had fixed the harmony of rhyme, but had likewiſe extended their influence to the north, and were every day gaining proſelytes; in ſo much, that the Emperor Frederic took great delight in their ſongs, and acquitted himſelf with much grace and elegance in that ſtile of compoſition. The Engliſh felt the ſame impulſe; our valiant Richard *Cœur de Lion*, became enamoured with their verſe, and likewiſe enrolled himſelf in their feſtive train: but neither the love ſongs of all the Poets, or the feſtivity of the Court of Arragon, were ſufficient to ſooth the impatience of the Royal Lover. He became penſive, and gloomy; moments ſeemed as ages, and every charm loſt its attraction, until he could behold his beautiful Eleonora.—The Biſhops of Burgos, Segovia, and Calahorra, were diſpatched in all haſte to Bordeaux, to preſs meaſures for the departure of the Engliſh Princeſs. Theſe

Prelates, on their arrival at Bordeaux, having waited on the Queen of England, duly acquitted themſelves of their commiſſion. The Princeſs Eleonora was delivered to their care, and ſoon after, ſet out on her journey to Spain, attended by the Biſhops of Poictiers and Angouleſme, with many Lords of England, Normandy, Britanny, and Gaſcony, emulous to eſcort this illuſtrious Princeſs, and teſtify their joy on the approaching nuptials, ſo pleaſing and acceptable to England and Spain.

It had been ſettled that King ALPHONSO ſhould receive his Royal Bride in the city of Tarazona belonging to Arragon, and on the frontiers of Caſtile, which compliment was paid to the Sovereign of Arragon, in conſideration of his affinity to the Engliſh Princeſs. Here all prior ſettlements were to be ratified, in preſence of the King of Arragon, who did every thing on his part becoming his affection for his nephew, who omitted no circumſtance to gain the heart of his lovely Bride, and

render

render her reception in Spain perfectly pleaſing to her; as well as acceptable to King Henry and to the Engliſh nation, for whom the Caſtilians profeſſed the greateſt reſpect, as a martial, intrepid people, whoſe high renown, as well as maritime ſituation, and genius for commerce and enterpriſe, rendered them proper, to be courted, as uſeful friends, or dreaded as formidable foes. Their intercourſe as friends was more particularly felt, being the purchaſers of all the fine wools of Spain, which they manufactured into cloth, and ſo careful were the Engliſh, even at that very period, of the good quality of their manufactures, that in a charter of Henry II. it was enacted, that if any fine cloth was found to be mixed with Engliſh wool, the chief magiſtrate was enjoined to ſee it immediately burned *.

King ALPHONSO ſettled on his Queen the city and caſtle of Burgos, with thirty-ſeven other towns, and the revenues ap-

* Stowe.

pertaining thereunto, to ſerve as a dower. Theſe were made over to the Engliſh ambaſſadors, to be held in the Queen's name, where ſhe was to receive fealty and homage. The King of Caſtile moreover granted a moiety of all conqueſts, made over the Infidels from the date of his nuptials, ſwearing on the holy Evangeliſts, and in the preſence of the King of Arragon, to uphold and maintain all theſe ſtipulations inviolate.

The King of Arragon likewiſe pledged himſelf on his part, in a ſimilar manner, that he would guarantee all the engagements entered into by his Royal Nephew, and in confirmation thereof did homage to the Viſcounts of Chatillon and Tartain, and to Peter de Mota, the ambaſſadors from England.

The fortune given by King Henry the II. to his daughter the Princeſs Eleonora on the occaſion of her marriage, is ſaid by Spaniſh writers, to have been the dutchy of Gaſcony, and that both Richard *Cœur de*

de Lion, and John *Sans terre*, brothers to Eleonora, had made over their claim to their ſiſter, on her nuptials; and though little notice ſeems to have been taken of theſe ſettlements, by our hiſtorians, it ſhould ſeem as if they had become objects of negotiation, at a future period *; every thing

* According to the hiſtorian Rapin, Leiceſter had no ſooner reſigned his patent, than a plot was diſcovered, to deliver Guyenne to Alphonſo the X. King of Caſtile. That Sovereign affirmed, he had charters in form, ſigned by King *Henry the* II. as well as the Kings *Richard* and *John*, who had confirmed the grants of that dutchy. It is true, Rapin adds, that theſe charters were never produced, though he artfully perſuaded the diſcontented Lords, that he had them in his poſſeſſion; which occaſioned Henry III. to go in perſon with an army to Bordeaux, to ſecure with greater eaſe the poſſeſſion of theſe provinces to the Crown of England. King Henry ſent ambaſſadors to Caſtile, to propoſe a match between his eldeſt ſon *Edward*, and the Princeſs Eleonora of Caſtile, ſiſter to King Alphonſo, and great-grand-daughter of King *Alphonſo the Good*. Theſe ambaſſadors were the Biſhop of Bath, and the Rev. John Manſel, the King's ſpecial chaplain. This propoſal was very acceptable

thing being thus ſettled to the ſatisfaction of all parties, the Royal Pair, after taking an affectionate leave of the King of Arragon, proceeded with a grand retinue, to the city of Burgos, where their nuptials were celebrated publicly, in the month of Auguſt, with all ſplendor and magnificence.

One of the firſt public acts of the King after his arrival in Burgos, was to paſs in review the loyal corps of light horſe volunteers of the city of Avila, who conſtantly eſcorted, and did duty about his royal perſon.—This martial corps being drawn up in front of the palace, the Sovevereign mounting a ſuperb courſer, and

acceptable to King Alphonſo, who had little hopes of gaining thoſe territories by force of arms. The match was accordingly agreed upon, Alphonſo reſigned all his pretenſions in favour of his ſiſter, and the territories in queſtion were ſettled upon Prince Edward, (afterwards our King Edward the Iſt.) in conſequence of this match.—Tindal the tranſlator of Rapin adds, that this charter was brought to England by theſe ambaſſadors, ſealed with a golden ſeal, and was to be ſeen at the old chapter-houſe at Weſtminſter.

nobly

nobly attended, advanced towards them. They went through their military evolutions in preſence of their Sovereign, amidſt the loudeſt applauſes of numerous ſpectators, with repeated acclamations of VIVA EL REI ALPHONSO, VIVA CASTILLA, and the whole terminated with the moſt heartfelt ſatisfaction and rapture. The King then returned his ſincereſt thanks to the volunteers for their loyalty and attachment to his perſon and government, and expreſſed his higheſt approbation of their good conduct and zeal. Divers privileges and franchiſes were granted to the city of Avila and its inhabitants, preſerved by them to this day, which will ever do honour to their fidelity.—At the ſame time the King gave leave to the volunteers to return home to their reſpective families, with every mark of diſtinction and honour, that can inflame the breaſt of a good ſoldier, and a loyal ſubject.

The city of Burgos re-echoed theſe tranſports of zeal, and the rejoicings laſted a conſiderable

conſiderable time, with every demonſtration of joy and content on the part of an affectionate people; and in the month of Auguſt enſuing, the Queen of Caſtile was ſafely delivered of a Princeſs, named BERENGARIA.

SECTION

SECTION III.

THE noble King ALPHONSO now began to diſplay talents and genius for government, civil and military, exhibiting daily proofs of that manhood and courage, derived from his anceſtors, with the improvement of a virtuous education, the fruits of which he was ſolicitous to ſhew to his faithful ſubjects, in addition to his wiſhes, to exert himſelf in defence of his kingdoms, the execution of the laws, the juſt rights of the crown, and the liberties and franchiſes of the people.

Being further ſtrengthened by new alliances, and cloſely connected by the ſtricteſt bonds of amity and friendſhip with his uncle of Arragon, the youthful and ſprightly King of Caſtile deemed it now a proper moment, to reſent the wrongs done him by the King of Navarre, during his minority.

To

To convince that ſovereign of his final reſolve, the juvenile ALPHONSO put himſelf at the head of his troops, equally deſirous to ſignalize themſelves in preſence of their martial ſovereign, who ſlighting the amuſements of courtly paſtimes, or waſting his youth in pleaſure and diſſipation, now ſtood forward with manly vigour, to ſupport the dignity and honour of his crown.

Impreſſed with theſe magnanimous ſentiments, Alphonſo, at the head of his brave Caſtilians, began his march towards Navarre, and in his progreſs ſeized on many towns belonging to that kingdom; the inhabitants every where precipitately flying at his approach; finally, the gallant ALPHONSO came up with the troops of his uncle, when the Caſtilians ruſhing forward with great impetuoſity, the enemy were immediately put to flight. The ſovereign of Caſtile, with his victorious legions, ſtill kept moving forward, and lay ſiege to the caſtle of Leguin, where the King of Navarre was in perſon, and would

have

have been taken priſoner, had he not made his eſcape in the night, and was purſued as far as Pamplona, by King ALPHONSO, who ravaged his country, and after chaſtiſing the enemy, and eſtabliſhing a character of firmneſs; a truce was agreed upon, and the King returned triumphant into Caſtile, evincing to his loyal ſubjects, that it was not the thirſt of vain conqueſt, and wanton bloodſhed, that animated his motions, but a deſire to ſecure his juſt rights, and thoſe of his people, which had engaged him, thus to take up arms, and uſe thoſe means which Providence had placed in his hands for their protection, and defence.

The Moors of Eſtramadura had alſo conceived the opportunity favourable, to ſurpriſe a young warrior, as yet unexperienced in the art of war, whom they ſuppoſed would fall an eaſy prey to their veteran and well diſciplined ſoldiers; under this idea, they had taken the field, and harraſſed the rear of the Caſtilian army. The Mooriſh horſemen were remarkably

dextrous

dextrous and reſolute, well mounted and equipped, making their attacks with impetuoſity, ſimilar to the ancient Numidians, of whom they were a colony.

The infidels holding poſſeſſion of the cities of Moya and Alarcon, on the banks of the river Jucar, in New Caſtile, with the important and ſtrongly fortified city of Cuenca, drew great advantage from this ſituation, and their troops being well ſupplied, they ruſhed forward in a bold manner, into the territory of Ucles, belonging to the Knights of the order of St. Jago, or St. James, a new order of martial heroes juſt eſtabliſhed, who have made a conſiderable figure in the annals of Spain, and in their firſt inſtitution, united the pious duties of a religious life, to the courage and intrepidity of ſoldiers, with a view of defending their country from the depredations and impiety of the Mahometans. Upon this occaſion, theſe brave knights, ſallying out of the caſtle of Ucles, with great ſpirit, repulſed the Moors, with immenſe ſlaughter. King

ALPHONSO nobly ſupported the valour of theſe ſoldiers, and in conjunction with them, retaliated in their turn on the infidels, who were driven back in every direction, and made to repent of their raſhneſs.

It grieved King ALPHONSO to behold the Moors in poſſeſſion of the noble city of Cuenca, in Caſtile, which had been ſettled as a marriage portion on his anceſtor, the great King Alphonſo the Sixth, on his nuptials with the beautiful Zaida, daughter of Ben Hamet, Mooriſh King of Seville, an amiable princeſs, who yielding to the power of love, had on her marriage with Alphonſo the Sixth, King of Caſtile, abjured the Mahometan faith, and embraced chriſtianity. The ceremony of her baptiſm had been performed with great pomp and rejoicings, and much intereſt made with the Pope, to approve of her bearing the name of MARIA, but the holy father it is ſaid, ſtrenuouſly oppoſed it, alledging that the glorious appellation of that immaculate and bleſſed virgin,

was

was incompatible with the leaſt taint of Mahometaniſm, ſo that the lovely convert had been obliged to ſatisfy herſelf with the name of ELIZABETH. The fruits of this marriage were an only ſon, DON SANCHO, a promiſing youth, killed at an early period in battle againſt the infidels *.

To

* King Alphonſo the Sixth was no leſs diſtinguiſhed as a lover, and by his connubial engagements, than by his military trophies; ſo that love and war ſtood in a manner in his almanack as ſynonymous expreſſions. This ſovereign was married ſix times, excluſive of his amorous connexions and illegitimate children, who were advantageouſly married, and whoſe poſterity enjoyed ſovereign dominion. A liſt of King Alphonſo's deſcendants will be found in the Appendix. (letter B.) The Chronicle of Pelagius, Biſhop of Oviedo, who lived near thoſe times, and is quoted by the hiſtorian Mariana, only allows five lawful wives to this king, and ſtiles the Princeſs Zayde a concubine; however, Roderic Mendez Silva, Hiſtoriographer General of Spain, and Member of the Royal Council of Caſtile, in his *Catalogo Real*, publiſhed by royal authority, claſſes the Princeſs Zayde with the other wives of King Alphonſo.—*Catalogo Real y Genealogico de Eſpana, por Rodrigo Mendez*

To reconquer the city of Cuenca, Alphonso now gave up his whole thoughts, and every meaſure was concerted to form the ſiege of this important place, which from its ſituation gave the Moors a ſafe retreat from attack, with every means of annoyance; beſides an extenſive command over the adjacent country, which rendered its neighbourhood both mortifying and perilous.

No ſooner were the intentions of Alphonſo known to his loyal ſubjects, in addition to the aid which he received from

Mendez Silva, Coroniſta general de Eſpana y Miniſtro del Real Conſejo de Caſtilla. — — Madrid, 1654.

This King Alphonſo was born in 1035, and in ſucceſſion to his brother King Sancho inherited the crown of Caſtile, to which he added thoſe of Leon and Galicia, with part of the kingdom of Portugal. Having conquered Madrid and Toledo from the Moors, he was ſtiled Emperor, and crowned as ſuch in the city of Toledo, which has ever ſince been dignified with the title of Imperial, and bears for its armorial enſigns, an Emperor ſeated in a royal chair, in his robes, holding a drawn ſword in his right hand, and a mund in his left.

his

his faithful ally the King of Arragon, than volunteers flew to the royal ſtandard, as well prelates, as lords; of the former, Don Roderic Ximenez de Rada, Biſhop of Oſma *, and of the latter, Don Diego Lopez de Haro, Lord of Biſcay, a knight of great renown, (whoſe ſiſter Urracca was married to the King of Leon,) alſo offered his ſervices, and came to this ſiege, to diſtinguiſh his valour in preſence of King Alphonſo.

The proceedings notwithſtanding were tedious, as well on account of the peculiar ſituation of the city, on a craggy rock, difficult of acceſs, as from the ſcarcity of proviſions and money, in the Caſtilian army. To ſupply theſe inconveniences, the *Cortes* were aſſembled at Burgos, and every meaſure concerted to enſure ſucceſs to this enterpriſe.

* The ſame who was afterwards Archbiſhop of Toledo, the confident of King Alphonſo, and who has left us a chronicle of his times.

Mean

Mean time, it was unjudiciouſly propoſed in that aſſembly, by the General Lopez de Haro, from the extraordinary preſſure and diſtreſs of the moment, to levy a capitation tax of five *maravedis* of gold on the *Hidalgos* or leſſer nobility and gentry, towards ſupporting the important operations of this ſiege; for which they were to be compenſated, at a future period, by other advantageous grants. But it does not appear that this haſty meaſure met with the concurrence, or was at the deſire of the generous Alphonſo. Many expreſſed a diſapprobation thereof, and rather than pay it, refuſed to aſſiſt in the attack upon Cuenca, ſince no taxes were to be levied upon them without their conſent, obtained by means of their repreſentatives in the Cortes. So that this propoſal of De Haro was no ſooner made known, than it was given up: amongſt others, Don Pedro de Lara, was particularly zealous in behalf of the *Hidalgos* of Caſtile, by which he highly ingratiated himſelf amongſt them; and they came to a reſolution, that in recollection of this ſervice, an annual dinner

ſhould be given to the family of Lara, in grateful return for this mark of attachment to their rights, and that one of that family, ſhould always be their repreſentative in the Cortes of the kingdom.

After this diſplay of the public ſpirit of the Spaniſh *Hidalgos*, whoſe privileges and rank in ſociety I have fully explained in another place*, perhaps ſome further anecdote relating to their private lives when retired to their country ſeats, may more excite the curioſity of the fair reader, than other detail's of military proceedings; therefore, while the ſiege of Cuenca was going on, which laſted near a twelve month, I ſhall beg leave to introduce what ſo illuſtrious a genius as Michael de Cervantes, who was an *Hidalgo* himſelf, has ſaid of them, beſides making his hero Don Quixote, to have been of that claſs. I hope then, that in a fragment of this nature, I may be excuſed for a ſimilar interruption, when I

* See *Hiſtory of Peter the Cruel King of Caſtile, by John Talbot Dillon, Eſq. &c. W. Richardſon. London* 1788, 2 *vol.* 8*vo.*

add,

add, that the quotation in queſtion, in the hiſtory alluded to, and many more lines following, are omitted in ſome tranſlations of that moſt ingenious and inimitable performance.

The paſſage is as follows, Don Diego de Miranda having told the excentric Knight, that he was an *Hidalgo*, and given an account of his ſociable mode of living with his wife, children, and friends, and deſcribed his library, where romances and adventures of Knight Errantry never were admitted, he then adds, "for my "part, I am free to acknowledge, that "books of profane hiſtory pleaſe me "more than thoſe of devotion, pro-"vided the former, are not immoral, "that the language is elegant, and "the mind enlivened and improved, "by the ingenuity of their compoſition; "but of theſe we have very few in Spain. "I occaſionally dine with my neigh-"bours and friends, and often invite them "in return. My repaſts are plain, but "neat, and plenty dwells under my roof.

" I never find fault, or criticiſe the con-
" duct of my acquaintance, nor do I give
" a willing ear, or conſent to the murmurs
" of others in my preſence; neither do I
" pry into the life and converſation of my
" neighbours, or look ſharply into their
" actions. I go to church every day, and
" attend at Maſs, divide my eſtate with
" the poor, yet without oſtentation or
" making boaſts of my charity, not to let
" hypocriſy or vanity, take poſſeſſion of
" my heart, being enemies that gently
" ſteal upon the moſt guarded minds. I
" endeavour to reconcile thoſe who are
" at variance with each other: I profeſs
" devotion for the Virgin Mary, and I
" place my truſt in the infinite mercy of
" the Almighty *."

Such

* All theſe lines, and many more which follow, are omitted in a *Tranſlation of Don Quixote, by Charles Henry Wilmot, Eſq. London*, 1774. Similar omiſſions I have obſerved in other tranſlations, excluſive of many miſtakes through ignorance of the original language, which I could eaſily point out if leiſure permitted. Smollet has miſtaken the ſenſe of

Such was the ſimplicity of character, of country gentlemen ſtiled *Hidalgos*, even in the days of Cervantes, that gallant ſoldier, wounded at the famous naval victory of Lepanto, a moſt diſtinguiſhed character, perfectly acquainted with the inmoſt receſſes of the human heart, its virtues and foibles; a writer, in one word, who may be equalled, but never can be excelled in any country, or at any period. In him not a ſingle word or thought, to offend the chaſteſt ear, or ſentiment to diſpleaſe the moſt virtuous mind.

of the author in the very firſt line; ſo that I do not ſay too much, when I advance, that we are yet without a correct tranſlation in the Engliſh language, of Don Quixote, a work as ſuperior to the novel of Gil Blas, written by a Frenchman, as light is to darkneſs, the former under a veil of excentric and infinite humour and pleaſantry, exciting every virtuous and liberal ſenſation; the latter not without merit, but interwoven with the immoral lives of actreſſes and valets, and other diſorderly perſons; therefore very improper for youth.——I ſee with pleaſure a new tranſlation of Gil Blas advertiſed, in which all the immoral paſſages are to be left out.

Oh incomparable Cervantes! like thee, I have croſſed the ſeas, have viſited the Courts of Kings and Emperors, experienced the deceitful ſmiles, and frowns of fortune, felt the loſs of wife, children, affluence, and friends! In the melancholy hours of gloom, thrice welcome, oh inimitable Cervantes! with thee, in moments of ſolitude, I am happy, laugh at the follies of the age, am charmed with thy exalted talents, and admire thy virtues* !

* Illuſtrious Bard, the cotemporary with our immortal Shakſpeare! Thy delightful works which I read in their original language, whether in proſe or verſe, have been the improvement of my juvenile days, and at preſent, ſerve as an entertainment in old age. Thy martial ſpirit and courage in the day of battle, will never be forgotten. To the Britiſh ſoldier ever famed for benevolence and valour, who may perchance read this tribute from an Engliſhman to thy memory, I flatter myſelf I need no further apology for its inſertion.

It is very remarkable, that Shakſpeare and Cervantes died on the ſame day, viz. 23d April 1616, the difference between old and new ſtile excepted.

We now revert to the ſiege of the important city of Cuenca, which by means of other reſources, was continued with great vigour and courage by the Caſtilian army; and although the Infidels defended the place with remarkable bravery, yet being ſurrounded by the troops of Alphonſo on all ſides, who cut off every ſuccour and relief from the friends of the beſieged, theſe were finally reduced, after ſeveral unſucceſsful ſallies to ſurrender the city to the ſuperior courage and invincible ſoldiers of Alphonſo, King of Caſtile, to whom they reluctantly opened their gates on the feaſt of St. Matthew, the 21ſt of September 1177.

King Alphonſo no ſooner got poſſeſſion of this city, than he demoliſhed its towers and battlements, totally diſmantled the place, and opened all its avenues to the adjacent country. The ſtrong fort of Alarcon, on the ſummit of a high and ſteep rock, ſurrounded by the river Jucar, ſurrendered ſoon after, as did the Caſtle of Inhieſta in its vicinity, by which

means Alphonſo cleared all that part of the country, of the Mahometans, and extended his dominions, in proportion with his fame and military glory.

At this brilliant conqueſt of the King of Caſtile, which ſeemed as a prelude to his future trophies, the young King diſplayed all that greatneſs of character, which ſtamped his reputation through life, and ſo juſtly endeared him to his people.

To teſtify his gratitude to his uncle of Arragon, who had generouſly aſſiſted him at this ſiege, he freed the King from the vaſſalage due from the Crown of Arragon to that of Caſtile, as a juſt return for his aid in this critical moment, at the commencement of his reign, when it was highly eſſential to impreſs the Infidels with a reverential awe of his power.

The firſt act of *Alphonſo* as a Chriſtian Prince, after being in poſſeſſion of the city of Cuenca, was to return ſolemn thanks

to

to Divine Providence for the ſucceſs of his arms, over the inveterate enemies of the Chriſtian Faith. In imitation of the Chriſtian Emperors, he was moreover zealous to propagate his holy religion, and increaſe its temples and worſhip. The Biſhop of Oſma was directed to execute the King's intentions with becoming ſplendour and devotion. A ſolemn *Te Deum* was chaunted, in preſence of the whole army, after which, the Moſque was immediately purified, and converted into a Chriſtian church, which Alphonſo erected into an Epiſcopal See, in virtue of a brief obtained from Pope Lucius the IId. dated at Veletri 5th July 1183. Don John Yanez, an exemplary prieſt of Toledo, was nominated the firſt Biſhop of Cuenca: a Chapter of Canons was founded with ſuitable revenues, becoming the munificence of the founder; and here, the Chriſtian Sovereign, to make uſe of the words of a diſtinguiſhed Britiſh Senator, did every thing in his power, "in order "that his church might be as ſtable as the

" earth on which it ſtands, and not fluc-
" tuate with the Euripus of funds and
" actions." In conſequence of this attention, the church of Cuenca ſoon became conſiderable in Caſtile, illuſtrated by the character of its venerable Prelates. Nor ſhould we omit the care of its firſt Biſhop, in converting the Moſque into a Chriſtian church, and doing every thing reſpecting this ſtructure and its interior embelliſhments, with a dignity becoming its ſolemn and ſublime purpoſes, ſtill preſerving in the ornamental part, a ſuitable and well ordained ſimplicity, judiciouſly adapted to promote reverential awe, and inſpire devotion, at the ſame time void of ſuperfluous and ill judged ornaments, ſo common in modern times in the churches of Spain, in ſo much as to become a ſubject of obſervation and remark, frequently urged by perſons of true piety and devout turn of mind of the Roman Catholic perſuaſion in that kingdom, which ſupercedes all foreign criticiſm from any other country

on

on the ſubject, therefore may be left entirely to themſelves *.

While much praiſe is due to the Spaniſh Church in thoſe days, the zeal of King

* An ingenious Spaniſh writer, Don Antonio Ponz, a reſpectable clergyman, with whom I had the pleaſure of being acquainted at Madrid in 1778, exclaims in a moſt impaſſioned ſtile againſt *the ridiculous*, and *abſurd ornaments* (I uſe his own expreſſions) with which the Spaniſh churches are even at this moment adorned. "The bad things (he adds) "which I abominate, not only are bad, but infi- "nitely ſo, and are ridiculous objects, in ſo much, "that if it could be ſuppoſed, they had been "placed in our churches, with any evil deſign, "or that we were not convinced, it proceeded "from ignorance, we might conclude, that moſt "of them were done in ſcorn of the moſt ſacred "things, relating to our cuſtoms, and holy "religion." *Viaje de Eſpana por Don Antonio Ponz, vol.* 10. *Madrid* 1781.

Much more has been advanced by the ſame writer, in a ſtile yet more vehement in his 11th volume, publiſhed at Madrid in 1783. About this time, Don Antonio Ponz came over to England, where he made a ſhort ſtay, and on his return home, publiſhed an account of his Tour into this country.

Alphonſo is equally commendable, who gave every aid in his power to the clergy, to ſtem the torrent of infidelity and corruption ſo prevalent amongſt the people, and their viſible inclination to the vices of the Mahometans, as well as predilection to their tenets;—an evil of long ſtanding, which Alvaro de Cordova, a Chriſtian writer in the 9th Century, ſtrongly inveighed againſt, and moreover inſinuates, that the Spaniards had ſo totally forgotten the Latin language, and given the preference to Arabic, that it was difficult even amongſt a thouſand people, to find one, who could write a Latin letter, while their attachment to the Caldaic books, and the literature of the Arabs, was ſo great, that they could write Arabic remarkably well, and compoſe verſes, with as much elegance as the Arabians themſelves; and not only charmed with their poetry, they embraced their religion in great numbers; in ſo much, that in the reign of Iſen, Mooriſh King of Cordova, who died in 795, it was ſaid, he had three thouſand

ſand apoſtates from Chriſtianity in his train *.

With reſpect to the city of Cuenca, through the benevolence of ſo noble a patron, it afforded numerous inſtances of

* See *Letters from an Engliſh traveller in Spain in* 1778, *on the origin and progreſs of Poetry in that kingdom, with occaſional reflections on manners and cuſtoms and illuſtrations of the Romance of Don Quixote. London*, 1781. 8*vo*.

Being the Author of this tract to which I did not put my name, and only printed 500 copies, long ſince diſperſed; I am nevertheleſs happy that it met with the approbation, not only of my friends, but further, had the good fortune to be favoured, by one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed Poets of this country, to whom, I had not, nor even have at preſent, the honour of being perſonally known; ſtill, upon my returning him thanks for ſuch favourable notice at the time, I hope that liberal minded gentleman will not be diſpleaſed that, at preſent I expreſs this public teſtimony of my acknowledgement, and for his having further been pleaſed then to confirm his opinion in a very polite letter, which he did me the honour to write to me in anſwer on that occaſion, which I preſerve with infinite reſpect and ſenſibility.

the

the moſt diſtinguiſhed merit. Its clergy were not only eminent by their paſtoral functions, but ſome of them were no leſs remarkable for their public ſpirit, and regard for the honour of their country. One inſtance more particularly occurs reſpecting one of its biſhops, Don Diego de Anaya, who being afterwards Archbiſhop of Seville, was ſent Ambaſſador to the Council of Conſtance, jointly with Don Martin Fernandez de Cordova. The Archbiſhop perceiving at a public audience that the Ambaſſador from Burgundy endeavoured to ſeat himſelf before him, puſhed him on one ſide, then placing himſelf in the chair, ſaid to his colleague Don Martin, "Be witneſs, Sir, that to "ſupport the precedence of our Sovereign, "I have done my part becoming a cler-"gyman, which you ſhould have done as "a Knight; as ſuch I leave the reſt to "you, as not proper for me to per-"form *."

This

* Another Spaniſh writer, Don Juan Antonio de Vera, ſays this conteſt was with an Engliſh and French

This reverend prelate, in further proof of zeal for the good of his country, at his return to Spain, founded the College of St. Bartholomew, in the Univerſity of Salamanca, for the education of youth; and to the archbiſhoprick of Seville, he bequeathed by his will the college abovementioned, with all the revenues he had ſettled thereon.

Such were the characters that gave renown to the city of Cuenca, on which many privileges had been beſtowed by Alphonſo: amongſt the reſt, the right of ſending repreſentatives to the *Cortes* of the kingdom. No wonder then, that the city ſhould flouriſh, and in future ages become a ſeat of learning, where many great writers printed their works; nor was it leſs noticed by the induſtry of its inhabitants, its trade and woollen manufactures, owing to their numerous flocks of ſheep in that neighbourhood, remarkable for the good-

French Ambaſſador, and relates a long ſtory, not very probable; however, ſuch as it is, I ſhall inſert it, merely for the curioſity of my readers. *See Appendix. (B.)*

neſs

neſs of their wool, though inferior to other ſorts, held in high eſtimation in Caſtile, and eagerly ſought after in other parts of Europe *.

* The Spaniſh wool purchaſed by foreigners is chiefly exported from Caſtile, Arragon, and Navarre; that from Caſtile is the fineſt, and mixes beſt with Engliſh wool, particularly the wool of thoſe ſheep termed *Merinos*, which is ſo eſſential to our celebrated manufactures of ſuperfine cloth, and of which in times of peace we annually import from twenty to thirty thouſand ſacks.

This *Merino* wool is divided by the Spaniards into four ſorts, viz.

Segovia, Leon } The two fineſt ſorts.
Soria, next.
Cuenca, the laſt.

For the better preſervation of theſe famous *Merino* flocks, and regulating their extenſive range of paſturage from one part of the kingdom to the other, the Council of the *Meſta* was eſtabliſhed by King Alphonſo the XI. who died in 1350, at the ſiege of Gibraltar, then in poſſeſſion of the Moors. This Council is divided into 4 departments, or juriſdictions, termed *Merindades*, viz. in Segovia, Leon, Soria, and Cuenca. As I have already treated amply of theſe flocks, the reader who may have any curioſity to be further informed on this intereſting ſubject, is referred thereto. See *Dillon's Travels through Spain, London*, 1780, 4to.

SECTION

SECTION IV.

1176 THE conqueſt of the city of Cuenca, with an extenſive territory contiguous thereto, being the firſt trophy of the youthful and martial ALPHONSO, I have been excited perhaps to dwell too diffuſely thereon, and its conſequences.

We are now to behold the King of Caſtile as a magnanimous Prince, who in this early part of his reign diſtinguiſhed himſelf to the great ſatisfaction of his loving ſubjects. His regard for the duties of religion, his encouragement of morality and virtue, his recent conqueſt over the infidels, finally, his love of juſtice, moderation, and other amiable qualities, gained him the univerſal affection of his ſubjects.

Theſe ſentiments on their part, were further heightened by thoſe of infinite reſpect for the Queen, ariſing from her gracious and elegant behaviour: always dignified,

dignified, yet affable, and who, without interfering in the affairs of ſtate, devoted her thoughts to maternal benevolence, and conjugal felicity, which unite ſocial virtues to the dignity of rank, and not only conſtitute the happineſs of private life, but reflect luſtre and ſplendour on the exalted ſtate of a ſovereign.

While Queen Eleonora was thus pleaſingly occupied in ſhewing the brighteſt example to the ladies of her court, ALPHONSO was no leſs attentive to the welfare and defence of the ſtate; as a Prince, ſtudious to promote the happineſs of his people; and, as far as in his power, according to circumſtances, when it could be done with ſafety, ready, to reconcile by deeds of peace, rather than increaſe by tremendous war, the jarring intereſts and jealouſies of his chriſtian neighbours, or rivals.

The King perceived with much regret, that the calamities of war, which ſtill continued between Caſtile and Navarre, had forced

forced him to perſiſt in a ſtate of animated hoſtility, in order to ſupport the ſafety as well as dignity of his crown; a becoming ſpirit which had its proper effect upon the King of Navarre, and made him dread the conſequences of further aggravation, from a high minded people, in addition to the reſentment of a nephew, beloved by his ſubjects, ready to ſupport him againſt his enemies upon all occaſions.

The generous ALPHONSO, though deeply impreſſed with theſe loyal ſentiments on the part of his people, wiſhing nevertheleſs to put a ſtop to the further effuſion of blood, and to heal all differences with his uncle of Navarre, propoſed to that ſovereign, to refer all conteſts between the two crowns, to the friendly and final arbitration of the magnanimous Henry the II. King of England, whoſe wiſdom, and juſtice, were equal to his puiſſance, and perfect regard for both parties, and had generouſly been the firſt mover and promoter of this liberal accommodation.

Theſe

Theſe propoſals being acceded to, by the King of Navarre, articles of agreement were drawn up, and ratified between the two Kings, on the 25th of Auguſt, 1176, and each ſovereign ſent Ambaſſadors to England, attended by learned counſel, the better to explain their pretenſions, and lay their caſe before the illuſtrious King of England.

On the part of the King of Caſtile, there came the Biſhop of Palencia, and from the King of Navarre, the Biſhop of Pamplona, with divers other lords, and perſons of note, on behalf of both ſovereigns reſpectively, to hear the ſentence that might be given, and report the ſame on their return. Four caſtles in the mean time were put into neutral hands by each party, as pledges for their ſtanding to Henry's award in this appeal.

There alſo went, it is ſaid, according to the romantic chivalry of thoſe days, two champions, armed *cap a pied*, who were to fight the cauſe of their reſpective ſovereigns

reigns in the liſts, in compliance with the foibles of the times, to prove, as they vainly thought, the force of reaſon, by the power of arms, ſhould the potent King Henry, in his great diſcernment, have decreed the controverſy to be decided by ſingle combat.

The King of England was at Windſor when he received information from his Secretary Peter de Blois, that Ambaſſadors were arrived from the moſt ſerene Kings of Caſtile and of Navarre, to ſubmit to his ſolemn judgment, divers matters of importance and conteſt between theſe two ſovereigns, in which many lives had been loſt, and ſeveral cities taken and pillaged on both ſides. The elegant Secretary, one of the politeſt ſcholars of his time, cloſing his diſpatches to his royal maſter with the following compliment, " That as the Queen of the South had come from the remoteſt parts of the world, to conſult the wiſdom of Solomon; thus theſe great Princes, in their weighty and arduous concerns, had now ſubmitted their caſe to his

grace's

grace's good council and ſolemn judgment."

1177. The King of England, who had already ſhewn his deſire to do every thing on his part to reconciliate two ſovereigns ſo nearly allied by the ties of blood to each other, and one of them, in ſo cloſe affinity to himſelf, immediately ſummoned the reverend Biſhops, Earls and Barons of his realm, to meet him in London, in the great council of the nation, which was called for that purpoſe at Weſtminſter, on the firſt Sunday in Lent, where the attendance of the reſpective Ambaſſadors was required, with their learned counſel, who were likewiſe deſired to draw up their caſe in the Latin tongue, to be preſented along with their credentials; which being complied with, the reſpective Ambaſſadors addreſſed the aſſembly in elegant orations, well adapted to the importance of their miſſion.

Theſe matters having been fully ſet forth, and liſtened to with great attention by

by the Engliſh Lords, the King of England, ſeated on his throne, ordered the New Teſtament to be produced, and required of the reſpective Ambaſſadors to ſwear on the holy evangeliſts that their ſovereigns would abide fully by the ſentence which he ſhould pronounce, as well reſpecting the truce to be obſerved, as the reſtitutions to be decreed upon; in failure of which, the ſaid Ambaſſadors were to ſurrender their perſons at the diſpoſal of the King of England.

After all theſe formalities had been complied with, in preſence of the Engliſh Lords, the parties were required to return again on the Sunday following, when appearing according to their ſummons, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, in preſence of the Biſhops, Earls and Barons, then aſſembled, pronounced the ſolemn ſentence of the Council, on the matter ſubmitted to their judgment, and decreed as follows:

"That

" That reſtitution ſhould be made to " Don Alphonſo King of Caſtile, by his " uncle Don Sancho, King of Navarre, " of the cities of *Logrono*, *Navarete*, *An-* " *deva*, *Aſtol*, and *Agoſej*, with all their " appurtenances, which, at the demiſe of " the late King of Caſtile, his father, or " any time after Alphonſo had quietly " poſſeſſed, and which the ſaid King of " Navarre had by violence and force of " arms taken from his nephew, when a " minor and an orphan. It was further " decreed, that Don Alphonſo King of " Caſtile, ſhould likewiſe make reſtitution " on his part to Don Sancho King of Na- " varre, of the towns of *Leguin* and *Poſtel*, " with the Caſtle of *Godin*, taken in war " from the King of Navarre, by the afore- " ſaid King of Caſtile."

A letter was then delivered from the King of England to the ambaſſadors, addreſſed to both Sovereigns reſpectively, in the Latin tongue, wherein the judgment was more fully and circumſtantially ſet forth, to the following tenour, viz.

Letter

Letter from Henry IId. King of England, to the moſt Serene Kings of Caſtile, and of Navarre.

" HENRY, by the grace of God, King " of England, Duke of Normandy, and " Guyenne, Earl of Anjou, &c. To his " moſt dear and well beloved friends, the " illuſtrious Don Alphonſo, King of Caſtile, " and the moſt Serene Don Sancho, King " and Navarre, greeting."

" Whereas it has been given us to un- " ſtand, as well by your letters, as by the " report made to us, by your Miniſters, " and further, by the aſſeverations of your " reſpective ambaſſadors, the right reve- " rend Biſhop of Palencia, on the part of " Caſtile, and the right reverend Biſhop of " Pamplona, on the part of Navarre, cer- " tifying, that you have each of you agreed, " that the differences and conteſts ſubſiſting " between you concerning certain caſtles " and diſtricts, ſhould be decided by a " ſolemn judgment on our part.

" Having therefore liſtened to your " ambaſſadors with becoming dignity, " and heard your learned counſel atten- " tively, reſpecting the points in queſtion, " then duly weighing and conſidering, " that peace and concord between both " Sovereigns, will greatly redound to the " honour of God's holy church and be- " nefit of Chriſtendom, we willingly took " this taſk upon ourſelves, out of pure love " and affection for theſe potent Kings " concerns, and for the common cauſe of " humanity."

" Wherefore, the aforeſaid ambaſſadors " and miniſters reſpectively, having ap- " peared before us, and the reverend " Biſhops, Earls, and Barons of our realm, " we gave ear to their divers arguments " on both ſides, relating to the weighty " matters in conteſt, wherein the counſel " on the part of Don Alphonſo King of " Caſtile have ſet forth :

" That Don Sancho, King of Navarre, " had unjuſtly and forcibly ſeized, and taken

" taken from the King of Caſtile, when " a minor, and orphan, the caſtles and " diſtricts following, viz. *Logrono*, *Nava-* " *rete*, *Andeva*, *Aſtol*, and *Agoſejo*, with all " their appendages and juriſdiction, which " the King of Caſtile his father had peace- " ably held, and fully enjoyed until the " hour of his deceaſe, and himſelf for ſome " time after, for which reaſon he now " claims reſtitution of the ſame."

" The counſel for Don Sancho, King " of Navarre, without contraverting the " allegations aforeſaid, alledge on their " part,—that Don Alphonſo, King of Caſ- " tile, had alſo ſeized, and by force of " arms taken from the ſaid King of Na- " varre, the caſtles of *Leguin*, *Poſtel*, and " *Godin*, which not being contradicted on " the part of Caſtile, the Sovereign of " Navarre alſo appealed for redreſs; be- " ſides, claiming a truce of ſeven years, " all which had been admitted by the " ambaſſadors of Caſtile.

" Therefore, by, and, with the advice " of the Lords ſpiritual and temporal, the " right reverend Biſhops, Earls, and Ba- " rons of our realm, conſidering how ex- " pedient it is, that peace and concord " ſhould ſubſiſt between ſuch high and " puiſſant Lords, for the good of the " church, and confuſion of its enemies; " and conſidering further your letters " of credence, with aſſurances of your am- " baſſadors, that you will give due weight " and authority to our counſel, and decree, " by maintaining peace, until we adjudge " finally between you reſpecting the points " at preſent in conteſt, repreſenred to us by " your ambaſſadors, we, by theſe preſent " inſtruments enjoin, as followeth:

" That you reſpectively ſign and keep " perpetual peace between you; and with " regard to the remonſtrances concerning " the caſtles and diſtricts, ſeized on by " force of arms on either ſide, they ſhall " be forthwith reſtored, ſince no reply or " reaſons have been adduced by either " party,

" party, why ſuch reſtitution ſhould not
" be made.

" We further enjoin, that the truce
" agreed on between you, and confirmed
" by oath, as appears by your ambaſſadors,
" be ſtrictly adhered to, and maintained.

" We moreover will, and require, for
" the ſake of peace, that our dear and
" well beloved Son Don Alphonſo, King
" of Caſtile, do cauſe to be paid to his
" reverend uncle Don Sancho, King of
" Navarre, during the term of ten years,
" the ſum of three thouſand *maravedis* per
" annum in the city of Burgos, by trien-
" nial inſtalments, that is, 1000 *mara-*
" *vedis* in four months, from the date of
" the reſtitution decreed as aforeſaid; a
" ſimilar payment in four months next
" enſuing, and the like at the expiration
" of the laſt four months: in ſuch man-
" ner, that for ten years ſucceſſively, the
" King of Caſtile will cauſe the above-
" mentioned payments to be duly effected
" in favour of the King of Navarre."

" Moreover, the ſaid ambaſſadors ſhall " ſolemnly ſwear reſpectively, that they " will duly and fully contribute towards " the execution of theſe our injunctions, " as well concerning reſtitution, as the " truce abovementioned, and that in caſe " of non compliance, they will as witneſs " thereof, ſurrender their perſons to be " dealt with, purſuant to our royal will and " pleaſure."

Theſe matters of conteſt being thus diſpoſed of, and King Henry having ſplendidly entertained the ambaſſadors, and made them various preſents of divers rich and curious ornaments in gold and ſilver; they took leave of the King, and returned home to their reſpective countries. The King of England appointed John Cumin, Bernard de Verdun, and Robert de Salop, to attend on the ambaſſadors, and make a report to their Sovereigns of what had paſſed on the occaſion. Our hiſtorian Brompton further adds, that King Henry alſo wrote a letter to the King of Leon, intimating his deſire, according to the devotion of thoſe days,

to

to make a pilgrimage to the ſhrine of the Holy Apoſtle St. James, the Patron of Spain, in the cathedral dedicated to that Saint, in the city of Compoſtella in Galicia, and to requeſt of the King of Leon, a ſafe conduct for the performing in ſecurity this devout act, and ſafe return home, which might be ſent to him by the perſons aforeſaid *.

The cathedral of St. James of Compoſtella, was one of the richeſt and fineſt in all Spain. The fondneſs of the Spani-

* The hiſtorian Brompton, has given in his Latin Chronicle the names of all the Lords ſpiritual and temporal, who were witneſſes to this letter of King Henry, and moreover, has ſtated at full length the credentials of the ambaſſadors of Caſtile and Navarre, with a detail of their differences, &c. as they were produced in England. See *Hiſtoriæ Anglicanæ Scriptores x. ex vetuſtis manuſcriptis, &c. Rog. Twysden, Londini* 1652. It is rather ſingular, the Spaniſh hiſtorian Mariana, does not ſay a word of this remarkable tranſaction, in his Hiſtory of Spain. Lord Littleton has given a conciſe, but accurate account thereof. See *Hiſtory of the Life of King Henry the IId. London* 1769.

ards for this church, conceiving it contained the remains of their Patron Saint, was beyond bounds, and the reſort of pilgrims innumerable: even when their troops attacked the enemy, this Saint was always invoked, and the general ſhout of the ſoldiers, was, *Santiago y a ellos.* But while I am ſpeaking of this attachment of the Spaniards to the Apoſtle St. James, it muſt be recollected, that the ſame temper and diſpoſition prevailed likewiſe amongſt Engliſhmen.

It does not appear, that King Henry perſevered in this fit of devotion, moſt prohably he was too much engaged in weighty affairs of ſtate, to be wandering in diſtant parts from his own dominions, in pilgrimage to the ſhrines of Saints. Such acts, however, were far from being peculiar to himſelf, as not only then, but ſeveral centuries afterwards, our countrymen ſeemed to vie with the Spaniards, in their devotion to this favourite Apoſtle, ſince a long time ſubſequent to the period now mentioned, we are told by Rymer, that

that licences were obtained for no leſs than 916 Engliſh, to go from their own country in pilgrimage to the ſhrine of St. James, at Compoſtella in Gallicia *.

In Spain, the principal attention of the King of Caſtile, ſurrounded on all ſides, by Infidels, was to give active ſupport to the Chriſtian Religion, protect its miniſters, and encourage the Clerical order, by engaging men of the moſt irreproachable morals, to embrace its functions, and inſpire his ſubjects with a due ſenſe of their duty to God and man; in order to prevent the bad conſequences to be dreaded from immorality, and a relinquiſhment of thoſe good principles, on which alone any dependance is to be had: for when, alas! depravity and infidelity get poſſeſſion of the heart, nothing but diſtreſs, and ruin, muſt be the reſult to the ſtate, as well as to the felicity of individuals.

The better to effect this ſalutary purpoſe, ALPHONSO iſſued an ordinance in

* In 1428.

favour of the Spaniſh Church, in which he exempted its miniſters from all taxation; to which he added, in further token of benevolence to his people, an extenſion in favour of ſhipwrecks; an act which did great credit to the feelings of Alphonſo; wherein he had moreover the example of his father-in-law, Henry the Second, King of England, who had granted a ſimilar charter to the Engliſh a ſhort time before; which probably laid the foundation for thoſe famous laws of Oleron, promulgated by his ſon King Richard, brother to the Queen of Caſtile. Be this as it may, with reſpect to the ordinance of Alphonſo, as this laſt diſplays the clement diſpoſition of the King of Caſtile, it may not perhaps be irrelevant to produce it, on this occaſion.

"In the name of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, "amen. Amongſt other acts of piety and "devotion, the principal and moſt be-"coming a Sovereign, is to protect, and "exalt God's holy church, revere the "clerical functions and character, and "grant to its Miniſters, a decent in-

come

" come and ſupport. Therefore, I Al-
" phonſo, by the grace of God, King of
" Caſtile and Toledo, jointly with my be-
" loved Conſort Eleonora, do with a wil-
" ling mind, and ſpontaneous intention,
" through piety, and hope for mercy, for
" the ſouls of my anceſtors, and the ſal-
" vation of my own; do grant by theſe
" preſents, in all devotion, before God,
" and the Holy Church of St. Mary of
" Segovia, to you Don Gonzalo its Biſhop,
" and to the clergy of your dioceſe, per-
" petual liberty and franchiſe, as well as
" to all the churches and prelates of my
" kingdoms; preſent, and to come, here-
" after, and to all Archbiſhops, Biſhops,
" Abbots, Priors, and Prieſts.

" I further conſtitute, and ordain, for
" myſelf, my heirs, and ſucceſſors, that
" hence forwards, no King, or Lord of
" vaſſals, officers, magiſtrates, or other
" perſons, of whatſoever rank, or condition
" they may be, ſhall on the demiſe of any
" Archbiſhop, Biſhop, Prelate, or Prieſt
" of my kingdoms, preſume to levy any

" ſpoils on the effects or hereditaments of
" the deceaſed aforeſaid, or by force, or
" diſtreſs, ſeize on their houſehold goods
" or chattels; on the contrary, I decree,
" that the whole remain inviolate, to be
" poſſeſſed by the ſucceſſive Archbiſhop,
" Biſhop, or Prieſt."

" In the ſame manner, I command, that
" nothing ſhall be levied on them by me-
" nace, or threat, or more exacted, than
" what ſhall be required freely, by, and
" with the conſent firſt had, and obtained,
" of the Archbiſhops, and Biſhops, of the
" church, in my kingdoms."

" I alſo exempt the clergy of my king-
" doms, from all civil offices, and duties,
" whatſoever thereunto pertaining, as well,
" as from all military ſervice, due to
" the King, cordially enjoying and intreat-
" ing the church, to offer up with fervour
" their daily prayers to the Almighty God,
" for the protection of my perſon and
" kingdoms, beſeeching the Divine Being
" to enlighten my underſtadning, and re-

" pleniſh

" pleniſh me with his holy ſpirit and hae-
" venly grace, that I may hereafter attain
" eternal bliſs through the merits of Jeſus
" Chriſt our Lord."

" I moreover ordain, that in all misfor-
" tunes of ſhipwrecks, on any of my coaſts,
" the unfortunate ſufferers, are to be per-
" mitted to paſs freely, with ſuch of their
" effects as they may have ſaved, without
" any let, or moleſtation whatſoever: and
" that no one preſume, to offer them any
" injury to their perſons or property in any
" part of my dominions, under pain of my
" higheſt indignation. *Done at Toledo in*
" *the Era MCCXVIII. xv. of the Kalends*
" *of January, four years after the moſt Chriſ-*
" *tian King Alphonſo had reſtored the city of*
" *Cuenca to the Catholic Faith.*"

In the former part of this grant, it ſhould ſeem that King Alphonſo only followed the example of other Chriſtian powers, long before in practice by the Engliſh nation, with reſpect to the clergy, as appears from a Paſtoral Letter of Odo, Prior of Canterbury,

Canterbury, publiſhed A. D. 943, wherein that Prelate recites, and ſtrictly charges, "That no one preſume to levy any taxes "upon the clergy, who are the Sons of "God, ſince the Sons of God ought to be "free from all taxation in every kingdom "whatever*."

Independant of the above, Alphonſo had no occaſion to look towards England, ſince ſimilar ſentiments had been held ſacred in Spain, time immemorial, were ſtrongly enforced in the 6th Council of Toledo in 638, and were followed in France about two hundred years after, viz. in 803, when the Nobles and Commons preſented a petition to the Emperor Charlemagne, requeſting that Prince on their knees, to preſerve inviolate the lands of the Church; and that in caſe of war, or exigencies of the ſtate, the Church ſhould not be diſpoiled, but might contribute by voluntary donations, collected by themſelves, for the common cauſe of ſafety and

* Spelman Council.—Hen. Hiſt. of England.

defence.

defence. Sentiments, concordant in the grand outline of benevolence, even at the preſent time, to the regard and reſpect ſhewn to the Engliſh Church and its Miniſters, andof which we have ſuch brilliant emanations, ſo emphatically expreſſed, by a late member of the Britiſh ſenate, and of his Majeſty's Privy Council, whoſe dignified language and ſentiments are too well known, to require any thing further to be ſaid in addition to them; while they ſeem at this immenſe diſtance of time, to coincide with the royal mind of Alphonſo.

When we contemplate the noble diſpoſition of this good Sovereign, in the early part of life, ſtanding forward upon all occaſions, in ſo examplary a manner, repairing public buildings, and employing leiſure hours in different progreſſes, wherein nothing eſcaped his eye, we ſhould not omit to relate, how much he was pleaſed in one of theſe excurſions, with the ſituation of the town of Umbroz, in the province of Eſtremadura, ſeated in a beautiful vale, which, beſides rich fields of corn,

corn, abounded in all manner of fruit trees, ſuch as the orange, lemon, peach, nectarine, apricot, pear, apple, and plum, while the ground, in many parts was covered with a variety of odoriferous plants, including a diſtrict near twelve leagues in extent, and three in breadth, ſheltered on all ſides by mountains, that ſecured its productions, from the ravages of boiſterous elements, while its woods and ſhady groves, as well as rivulets, added further gratifications, and refreſhment to its induſtrious inhabitants.

Alphonſo was ſo enraptured with this charming place, that he determined to build a new city here, and from its pleaſant ſituation. named it *Placencia*, which he peopled with Chriſtian families of good repute, from different parts, to whom he gave ſettlements, and that nothing ſhould be wanted for ſpiritual, as well as temporal comfort, he founded a cathedral church in 1170, the Biſhop whereof, to be ſuf-

fragan

fragan to the Archiepiſcopal See of Toledo *.

But the moſt princely foundation of this Sovereign, was the magnificent Monaſtery of *St. Mary De las Huelgas*, near Burgos, for religious women of the order of St. Bernard, who were all to be of noble deſcent. This houſe the King endowed in ſo noble and magnificent a ſtile, with moſt extenſive juriſdiction, and privileges, ſcarce to be paralleled in Europe, the Abbey of Fulda in Germany only excepted.

* This beautiful vale, ſtiled *La Vera de Placencia*, contains no leſs than 17 towns and villages, full of inhabitants, and may be conſidered as one of the fineſt ſpots in Europe.—Here it was, that, in ſucceſſive ages, the Great Emperor, Charles the Fifth, charmed with its pleaſant ſituation, determined, after a ſeries of conflicts and wars, to end his days in the Convent of *St. Juſte*, as the only retreat, that he conceived might afford conſolation to his harraſſed and agitated mind, expecting to find here ſome relief from his endleſs cares, in ſolitude and ſilence, after experiencing all the burthens of exterior pomp, and worldly grandeur.

The

The Queen alſo contributed bountifully in embelliſhing this royal ſtructure, and giving it ſplendor. Their pious daughter, the Lady Conſtance, was the firſt abbeſs of this houſe. Alphonſo moreover ordained, that it ſhould be the place of ſepulture for himſelf, his Queen, and the remainder of his line *.

* An ample deſcription of this famous Monaſtery of *Las Huelgas*, may be found in my *Hiſtory of the Life and Reign* of Peter the Cruel King of Caſtile, to which the reader is referred for further particulars reſpecting that noble endowment.

SECTION

SECTION V.

HAVING now ſufficiently exemplified the private character of the benevolent ALPHONSO, it is time to revert to ſcenes of public life, and record his actions and conduct the in government of his kingdoms.

The King having heard of the demiſe of the Sovereign of Leon, and the ſucceſſion of his Son Alphonſo the Ninth, he convened the CORTES, and ſummoned its members to meet him in the city of Carrion in old Caſtile; where, after laying before them, the weighty affairs of the nation, and conſulting with them on the exigencies of the times, it was deemed becoming the dignity of the King of Caſtile, to ſend a ſummons to the King of Leon, requiring him to repair to the city of Carrion, and there to pay homage to the King of Caſtile in preſence of the CORTES, there aſſembled, as his father had done before on a ſimilar occaſion.

This

This being peremptorily refuſed, immediate war, was declared againſt the King of Leon, who finding himſelf embarraſſed at the ſame time, and in ſome difficulties, with the King of Portugal, acquieſced on further reflection, to the requiſition made to him on the part of Caſtile: accordingly he came, and preſented himſelf before the CORTES, then ſitting at Carrion, kiſſed the hand of his couſin, the King of Caſtile, and paid him homage for his Crown, conformable to the manners of the times; after which, he was ſplendidly entertained by the King of Caſtile, from whom he received the honour of Knighthood, with all the ceremonies uſed in thoſe days of chivalry and pomp.

The high renown of ALPHONSO ſeemed now to extend to the moſt remote parts of Europe. Frederick, ſirnamed Barbaroſſa, Emperor of Germany, became deſirous of forming an alliance with the magnanimous ALPHONSO, and further, to obtain in marriage for his 3d ſon Conrad, the amiable Lady BERENGARIA, only daughter

daughter and heireſs of the kingdom of Caſtile.

Propoſals of marriage were accordingly made, and accepted of, on both ſides; the parties were affianced, and the marriage contract formally ſigned, in the city of Scheleſtad in Alſatia.

The expectations of the Emperor were greatly heightened, and flattered by this match, in pleaſing hopes, that, if ALPHONSO ſhould have no other iſſue, his ſon Conrad might meet the ſame good fortune, as had happened with Raymond of Burgundy, and by a ſimilar circumſtance, obtain the monarchy of Caſtile, for a branch of his houſe.

With theſe flattering ideas, the Martial Conrad ſet out from Germany in the gallant ſtile of a lover, and appeared in ſplendour at the CORTES of Carrion, where he was nobly entertained and moſt graciouſly received by King Alphonſo, from whom

whom he received the honour of Knighthood.

It unluckily fell out, notwithſtanding theſe golden dreams and brilliant appearances, that other circumſtances were not propitious to this flattering union.—— Though the marriage articles had been ratified, the phlegmatic, and ſtern mien of the German Prince, were ſo unpleaſing to the ſoft and gentle BERENGARIA, that ſhe could not reconcile herſelf to the cold and reſerved temper of her ſuitor. Her friends gave out, that the Princeſs was totally averſe to the marriage, and chagrined at the thought of quitting her own country, to inhabit the frigid regions of Germany; amongſt a nation, whoſe manners were rough and unpoliſhed, ſo different from thoſe of Caſtile, where the fair ſex were idolized; where love and chivalry were the chief purſuits of her countrymen, and what is more, where women were held in a more enthuſiaſtic admiration, than in any other part of Europe; whereas in Germany, where fierce courage

and

and haughty manhood, were deemed more conſequential, than the endowments of the mind, the rights of females were leſs regarded: hence the Salic Law, and the general principle of all feudal tenures, and that noted maxim, *Natura ab omni feudo fœminas ſecludere videtur.*—From whence, women were in a manner overlooked, in all public ſucceſſions, every where except in Spain, where by reaſon of the devaſtations of the Saracens, the feudal ſyſtem introduced by the ancient Germans, had not the ſame vigour.

With reſpect to the intended alliance with the Princeſs BERENGARIA, the Spaniſh clergy alſo interfered for her honour, and by the advice of Cardinal Gregorio, the Pope's legate*, and of Gonzalo archbiſhop

* Though Cardinals when inveſted with the power of Legates aſſumed great authority in the courts of chriſtian Princes in thoſe days, their perſonal dignity was much ſhort of that eminence to which it has in ſucceſs of time ariſen. At firſt Cardinals were only ſeven in number, and ſo little was

ſhop of Toledo, the marriage contract was diſſolved before conſummation, as well from reluctance of the Princeſs, as from motives of conſanguinity. The parties being allied in the fourth degree, as

was their title appreciated, that they always ſigned after Biſhops and even mitred abbots, and on their elevation to an Epiſcopal See, they vacated the Cardinalitian degree, it being conſidered as a temporal dignity, and not any order of the church, appertaining to divine miſſion.

In the Spaniſh language, the literal ſenſe of the word *Cardinal* admits of a peculiar equivoque, as in that country it likewiſe ſignifies the mark left on the body after any violent bruiſe or blow.—*Dictionario de la Lingua Caſtellana por la Real Academia.—Madrid* 1791. Under this idea, an humorous Spaniſh Friar, in alluſion to a numerous promotion of Cardinals, is ſaid in one of his Sermons, to have introduced the church, complaining of the Pope, like a woman ill treated by her huſband, from whom ſhe had received ſeveral blows, thus expreſſing herſelf, *Y ſi no me quereys creer, Senor, mira los Cardenales que ahora me acaba de hazer,* "and if thou wilt not believe me good Lord, look on theſe marks of bruiſes and blows he has juſt given me".

For a further account of the Cardinalitian dignity. *See Appendix Letter (C)*

deſcended

deſcended from Raymond of Burgundy. —At that period the impediments were extended to the ſeventh degree, though a few years after, they were again reſcinded to the fourth degree by Pope Innocent the Third, at the council of Latran, in 1215.

The Spaniſh hiſtorians have in general expatiated on the diſpleaſure of the amiable Princeſs BERENGARIA at this Germanic alliance, but the hiſtorian Ferreras, more explicit, and better informed, relates that unfortunately for the expectations of Prince Conrad, the Queen of Caſtile, during his abode in the city of Carrion, had been ſafely delivered of a Prince, named FERDINAND, to the great joy of his royal parents, while it occaſioned a coolneſs in the imperial lover, ſufficient to give umbrage to the fair Princeſs, and was the occaſion of his returning to Germany, in queſt of ſome other alliance.

The future events in the life of this illuſtrious Princeſs, were affecting and ſin-

gular in the extreme. Without adhering cloſely to chronological order, this ſeems the place to introduce their intereſting narrative.

Soon after the marriage contract with Prince Conrad had been diſſolved, this lady was again engaged in a matrimonial alliance, with her couſin Alphonſo King of Leon.

Paſſingover thoſe wars in which the King of Caſtile had been cloſely preſſed, by the King of Leon, this match had been concerted by the Queen of Caſtile, to prevent the further calamities of war, by a cordial reconciliation between the two crowns, for which purpoſe the King of Leon had been invited to Valladolid, where the nuptials were ſolemnized, though the King of Caſtile had objected to the match on account of conſanguinity.—On the ſame motives the King of Leon had lately been divorced from his former wife, the lady Tereſa, daughter of Don Sancho King of Portugal,

Portugal, by which Princeſs, the King of Leon had three children.

When Pope Celeſtine heard of this new alliance of BERENGARIA with the King of Leon, he ſent expreſs injunctions to Cardinal Gregorio, his legate in Spain, to fulminate eccleſiaſtical cenſures againſt them. Notwithſtanding which, the royal pair ſlighted the pontifical mandates, and ſtill cohabited together in the married ſtate, with the greateſt affection and union, had two ſons, FERDINAND and ALPHONSO, and continued to live united, notwithſtanding all the repreſentations of Celeſtine.

No ſooner had Pope Innocent the Third been raiſed to the papal chair, after the demiſe of Celeſtine, than the moſt preſſing mandates were diſpatched to his nuntio in Spain, to part the King of Leon, from the Princeſs BERENGARIA of Caſtile, their marriage having been declared null and void in the moſt ſolemn manner; adding the moſt ſerious threats, in caſe of refuſal,

to put both the kingdoms of Caſtile and Leon, under an immediate interdict, with the ſevereſt cenſures of the church.

The two Kings thus menaced, teſtified much reſentment at this conduct of the holy father, nor would either of the ſovereigns ſuffer the Pope's nuntio, to publiſh any excommunication, or other eccleſiaſtical cenſures whatſoever, in their reſpective dominions. The King of Caſtile proceeded ſtill further, and baniſhed the Biſhop of Ovideo for preſuming to publiſh any papal decrees in his dominions without his royal licence, ſpecially had, and previouſly obtained for that purpoſe; an example ſince followed by other Catholic Princes in Spain, remarkable for their peculiar devotion and attachment to the Holy See *.

Alphonſo, however, as a Prince of great benignity, and willing to ſhew every due reſpect to the Supreme Pontif, diſpatched the Archbiſhop of Toledo to Rome, with

* As a very ſtriking inſtance of this, ſee Appendix, letter *(D.)*

the

the Biſhop of Palencia, in order to reconcile matters with the Holy Father. The King of Leon did the ſame, and ſent the Biſhop of Zamora with a ſimilar commiſſion, including full powers to act in a caſe of this delicacy and importance, to the quiet of both kingdoms, in ſuch a prudent manner, as might incline the Pope to look with more indulgence on this alliance, concluded through motives of humanity, in times of great diſtreſs, and to ſtop the further effuſion of human blood.

On this occaſion, the King of Caſtile acted with greater moderation than his cotemporary Alphonſo the IVth King of Portugal, who being at variance with the Pope, and the nuntio in Liſbon having laid the kingdom under an interdict, that prelate had no ſooner appeared in the King's preſence, than he ſeized him by the collar with one hand, and holding a drawn cymeter in the other, ſwore, that if the nuntio did not immediately take off the interdict, he would ſever his head from his body, on which the affrighted

Prelate inſtantly complied with the King's demand, after which the King ſent him back to Rome, detaining his nephew and retinue as hoſtages, informing the Pope at the ſame time, that if he did not ratify the act, he would put them all to death.

Notwithſtanding theſe acts of ſubmiſſion on the part of the two Kings before mentioned, INNOCENT continued deaf to their intreaties, and wrote letters to the two Kings referring them to the diſſapprobation of his predeceſſor Celeſtine, to this marriage, as well as to the general diſcipline of the church: which contradicts what our hiſtorian, Roger de Hoveden had aſſerted, that Celeſtine had given his conſent to theſe nuptials *. The ſentiments

* Hoveden aſſerts, that in 1190, Alphonſo King of Caſtile, had engaged the King of Leon to repudiate his Portugueſe wife, in order to marry his daughter Berengaria, with the permiſſion of Pope Celeſtine.—If this had been the caſe, ſhe muſt have married the King of Leon in 1197, if it was by conſent of Pope Celeſtine, as noticed by the Marquis of Mondyar, becauſe Celeſtine died on the 8th

ments of Celeſtine will appear from his Decretal Epiſtle addreſſed to the Archbiſhop of Santiago de Compoſtella, and to the biſhops of the kingdom of Leon,

8th Jan, 1198. The Archbiſhop of Toledo aſſerts on the contrary, that the King of Caſtile never would give his conſent to theſe nuptials on account of conſanguinity.—Moreover, the brief of Innocent declares, this marriage had never been conſummated with Eccleſiaſtical authority, which he could not have done, if the caſe had been as Hoveden has repreſented.

Amongſt the letters of Innocent the Third, publiſhed at Paris in 1682, by Stephen Baluſe, in Book 1ſt. Letter 92, may be ſeen the annulling the marriage of the King of Leon with the Princeſs of Berengaria of Caſtile, as being related in the ſecond degree, the two Kings not permitting him to publiſh any cenſures or interdict in their kingdoms. Letter 93, to Raynerius, contains an abſolution, and the interdict to be taken off, if the King of Leon ſubmitted to the Pope. Again, in vol. 2d. Letter 75, directed to the Archbiſhop of Compoſtella, as alſo to the Biſhops in the kingdom of Leon, contains the Pope's commands under pain of interdict, and excommunication to effect the ſeparation of the King of Leon, from his nominal Conſort, the Princeſs Berengaria, as being allied in prohibited degrees.

wherein he thus expreſſes himſelf, "In-
"nocent, ſervant of the ſervants of God,
"&c. There lately came to our Apoſ-
"tolic See, our venerable brothers, the
"Archbiſhop of Toledo, and the Biſhop
"of Palencia, on the part of the moſt
"ſerene King of Caſtile, and on the part
"of the moſt ſerene King of Leon, the
"Biſhop of Zamora, reciprocally requir-
"ing, that, we would diſpenſe with the
"aforeſaid King of Leon, and the Prin-
"ceſs BERENGARIA, daughter to the
"aforeſaid King of Caſtile, with reſpect
"to their inceſtuous intercourſe. On
"which account, if our benevolent mind
"had not been tempered with that pecu-
"liar affection, which we bear to the
"aforementioned King of Caſtile, we
"ſhould peremptorily extend towards
"them our Eccleſiaſtical cenſures, and
"ſeverity: That no one in future might
"preſume to addreſs us ſimilar requeſts,
"on points ſo often expounded, and con-
"demned, which theſe Sovereigns know
"full well, to have been frequently ſoli-
"cited

" cited of our reverend predeceſſor, and
" which, he conſtantly refuſed to com-
" ply with. Impreſſed therefore with
" ſimilar ſentiments, we religiouſly ad-
" here to the ſame maxims, and laudable
" zeal, and offer up our daily prayers, to
" the Almighty God, to preſerve you in
" his holy keeping."

The Spaniſh Biſhops nevertheleſs, ſtill continued to urge the Holy Father to more condeſcenſion, in favour of their royal maſters, but all their efforts were in vain, and matters came finally to ſuch extremities, that Innocent refuſed audience to theſe prelates, and forbade them his preſence; ſo that the biſhops exhauſted by a repetition of their fruitleſs ſolicitations; for the ſake of tranquility, and that weak minds might not be ſcandaliſed, and the repoſe of their reſpective countries be diſturbed, conſented on the part of the King of Leon, that, provided the interdict was removed, their Sovereigns would conform to the Holy Father's injunction, which Pope Innocent conſented to; not

however, without adding further repreſentations to that affectionate ſon of the church, the Good ALPHONSO, King of Caſtile, to whom the Pope addreſſed himſelf in the following terms:

"That, if the King of Caſtile did not "demean himſelf in future, with more "zeal, and regard for the canons of the "church, by receiving back his daughter, "the Princeſs Berengaria, and cauſe her "ſeparation from the King of Leon, to "be duly inforced; and, that if the "caſtles and lordſhips, ſettled on both "ſides, on that occaſion, were not reci-"procally given up; he ſhould in ſuch "caſe, act towards him in the ſame "manner, as he had done with the King "of Leon, and fulminate ſimilar cen-"ſures againſt himſelf."

Thus, at laſt, after five years affectionate union, the King and Queen of Leon were finally ſeparated, and every thing amicably adjuſted between all parties, every diſtrict

diſtrict was reſtored on both ſides, and all ſettlements cancelled, in conſequence of which, the amiable BERENGARIA was reſtrained to return comfortleſs to her father the King of Caſtile, leaving behind her five children, viz. FERDINAND, ALPHONSO, ELEONORA, CONSTANCE, and BERENGARIA. However, it was ſome conſolation to the afflicted parents, that Pope Innocent at laſt, in conſideration, that their union had been with a ſincere and innocent intention, conſented, to pronounce, *that their iſſue were legitimate*, in conſequence of which, at an aſſembly of the ſtates of Leon, FERDINAND, THEIR ELDEST SON, WAS DECLARED HEIR APPARENT TO THE CROWN OF LEON; although he had been before publickly adjudged by the See of Rome, to be the fruit of an inceſtuous commerce; and that the diſtreſſed and diſconſolate Berengaria, was bereft of her Conſort, and the comforts of matrimony.

To render the ſcene ſtill more affecting, the venturous King of Leon, divorced from both his Portugueſe and Spaniſh wives, was publickly declared to be a ſingle man, though he had two nominal wives living, and five legitimate children.

To future ages, and to cool and diſpaſſionate minds, how ſingular muſt the annals of theſe, and ſucceſſive royal divorces appear; ſometimes from the inflexibility of Popes, at others from the fickleneſs of Sovereigns. In this firſt inſtance, Innocent obliges Ferdinand, King of Leon, to divorce his affectionate Conſort BERENGARIA of Caſtile, whom he tenderly loved, and wiſhed to retain. In a future age, Clement the Seventh, vainly urges our King Henry the Eighth, to live with his lawful Conſort CATHARINE of Arragon, whom Henry had firmly reſolved to repudiate.

SECTION

SECTION VI.

HAVING rendered this tribute to the afflicted Princeſs BERENGARIA, acknowledged as Queen of Leon, and now unfortunately obliged to return comfortleſs, to the court of her royal parents in Caſtile: we come next to ſpeak of her younger ſiſter, the no leſs admired Princeſs BLANCHE, Queen of France, whoſe ſtory is likewiſe attended with remarkable circumſtances, though leſs melancholy and inconvenient to herſelf, than thoſe of her diſconſolate ſiſter, which we ſhall relate in the ſame manner as the former, independant of chronological arrangement.

JOHN, King of England, uncle to the Princeſs juſt mentioned, had lately ſucceeded to his brother, King RICHARD, and found himſelf engaged in an arduous and unſucceſsful war, againſt PHILIP AUGUSTE of France, which reduced him

to

to the mortifying neceſſity of making a diſadvantageous peace, with that Prince. Being on the eve of giving battle, the Cardinal de Capua the Pope's legate, had the addreſs to concert a conference between the two contending Sovereigns, wherein a peace was propoſed.—To give ſome colour to this circumſtance, Eleonor, Queen of England, mother to King JOHN, whoſe ſingular adventures were the general topic of Europe, appeared in favour of the King her ſon, and though at a very advanced age, her fertile genius ſuggeſted a deviſe, on behalf of King John, in which ſhe alſo included her grand daughter, Blanche of Caſtile, and by means of a matrimonial alliance, endeavoured to leſſen in ſome degree, the bad ſucceſs of her ſon.

The propoſal was, that, the King, her ſon, ſhould make over as a marriage portion, to his niece the Princeſs BLANCHE of Caſtile, on her nuptials with Lewis of France, ſon and heir of PHILIP AUGUSTE, all thoſe places conquered by Philip; for the concluſion of which, Queen ELEONORA with

with ſurpriſing vivacity, for her time of life, being then upwards of 76 years of age, undertook to make a journey into Caſtile, regardleſs of every accident and fatigue, in order to arrange all matters, and conduct her grand daughter to France.

Every thing being ſettled and agreed upon, the Queen of England ſet out on her journey, to viſit the Queen of Caſtile her daughter, who was then with King ALPHONSO in the city of Burgos, in old Caſtile, where Queen Eleonora was received with all affection and reſpect; —all the matrimonial circumſtances being arranged, the Queen of England returned to France, with the Princeſs BLANCHE, eſcorted by the King of Caſtile, and a gallant train of Spaniſh knights, as far as the province of Guypuſcoa.

Theſe royal perſonages being arrived at Bordeaux, they reſted there ſome days, on account of the Whitſun holy-days, when the Queen of England, finding herſelf

ſelf exceſſively fatigued after ſo long a journey, retired to the Convent of Font-Evereux, where ſhe remained, leaving Elias Biſhop of Bordeaux to conduct the Princeſs BLANCHE to her uncle King John, who was then in Normandy.

This was the laſt public act of that excentric Princeſs, ELEONORA of Guyenne, Queen of England, of whom various writers have given ſuch different repreſentations. Her three ſons, HENRY, RICHARD *Cœur de Lion*, and *John Sans terre*, were ſucceſſively Kings of England, her daughter *Eleonora* was Queen of Caſtile, and her daughter Jane, Queen of Arragon.

The remainder of this Princeſs's life was employed in giving charters, and beſtowing grants, in favour of the provinces of Guyenne, Poictu, Saintonge, and Aunis, but more particularly in favour of the Monaſtery of Font-Evraud, in Anjou, near Saumer, to which, beſides other donations, and ſurrounding it with a wall,

ſhe

ſhe bequeathed to the church, a ſuperb golden croſs enriched with jewels, a fine golden chalice, and other veſſels of gold and ſilver for the uſe of the church. Finally, ſhe took the veil there, and lived in retirement with the nuns of that convent, on whom ſhe was continually ſhewing marks of her affection, and ended her days amongſt them with chriſtian reſignation on the 31ſt of March, 1204, in the eightieth year of her age. Her remains were interred there under an elegant braſs monument, in the centre of the choir, as were likewiſe thoſe of her conſort, Henry the Second, King of England, and likewiſe their ſon, King Richard *Cœur de Lion.*

Such being the partiality of Queen Eleonora, in favor of this celebrated abbey, no wonder, that in the regiſtry of that foundation, they ſhould have expreſſed themſelves with ſuch gratitude in her favor, ſaying, "That her progeny had given "new luſtre to the world, that the ſplen- "dor of her birth was further enhanced "by the purity of her morals and inno-

"cence

" cence of her life, and that by her in-
" comparable character and honor, ſhe
" had ſurpaſſed all the queens of her
" time *." At the ſame time we cannot paſs over in ſilence, that the ſatyrical critics of thoſe days, as well as ſucceſſive times, have taken more liberties with the fame of this illuſtrious princeſs, and her royal iſſue; particularly the French writer Bayle, who, with a mind replete with prejudice, ſpeaking of her deſcendants, made no ſcruple to ſay, " That though they had
" the hearts of lions, they poſſeſſed leſs of
" true courage, than a boldneſs of charac-
" ter and ſpirit, which ſpurned the re-
" proaches of fame, and looked with in-
" difference on the greateſt atrocities, to
" ſuch a degree, that they neither did ho-
" nor to England, which they inherited

* Quæ nitore regiæ ſobolis ſuæ mundum illuſtravit, nobilitatem generis, vitæ decoravit honeſtate, morum ditavit graciâ, virtutum floribus picturavit, et incomparabilis probitatis, honore fere cunctis præſtitit Reginis mundanis. *Ex Necrologio Fontis Ebraldi, apud La main ferme clypeus Naſcentis Font Ebraldi ordinis. Tom. 2. p. 1.*

" from

" from their father, nor to France, from " whence they derived their original de- " ſcent, both paternal and maternal."

To revert from theſe ſevere animadverſions of a foreigner upon our ſovereigns, to the more pleaſing recollection of the amiable BLANCHE of Caſtile, in whoſe portraiture we are at preſent more particularly engaged, we ſhall add, that PHILIP AUGUSTE reſtored the city and county of Evreux with all the places taken in Normandy, which were ſettled as a marriage portion on BLANCHE of Caſtile, and all treaties and ſettlements, previouſly entered into, were finally confirmed; the marriage ceremony was performed by the Biſhop of Bordeaux, after which Lewis returned with his royal bride to Paris, and this princeſs was afterwards mother to the virtuous and heroic King Lewis the Ninth, who made ſo conſpicuous a figure in Paleſtine, became in courſe of time enrolled in the calendar of ſaints, and in future ages has been looked upon as the patron of a numerous and valiant order of knights, whoſe military

military fame and courage will never be forgotten, or extinguiſhed, whatever change of government or ſyſtem may take place in that country, at preſent the dreadful theatre of revolutions, bloodſhed, and ſacrilege.

In prejudice of the birth right of the unfortunate princeſs BERENGARIA, there had been a long conteſt and argument between the French and Spaniſh nations, in favor of the Princeſs BLANCHE, whom the French vainly pretended to aſſert was the eldeſt ſiſter; even the celebrated hiſtorian Mariana had advanced, in contradiction to hiſtorical record, that Blanche was the eldeſt ſiſter, but this he afterwards retracted and acknowledged his error. *

Under

* The Jeſuit Mariani, allowing him every merit for his elegance of ſtyle and freedom of ſentiment, is an hiſtorian who ſhould be read with ſome caution, as well in reſpect to his Latin annals, as to his ſubſequent Spaniſh hiſtory of his own country, which has undergone much criticiſm, and even cenſures from his own countrymen, for having

Under this idea of ſeniority, the French had ſet up a claim to the crown of Caſtile, but this pretenſion was long ſince given up by Blondel, Dupuy, and other French writers of note. This error has been further refuted by that illuſtrious Spaniſh critic, the Marquis of Mondejar, proving the forgery of the letter written in Caſtile, by the faction of Lara, to Lewis the Eighth, Conſort to BLANCHE, pretending that her father, King Alphonſo, had declared in their preſence, that if his ſon Don HENRY ſhould happen to die without iſſue, then his kingdoms of Caſtile and Toledo, were to devolve to the heirs of his daughter Queen Blanche; no traces however of any ſuch letter are to be found in the writings of Roderic, Archbiſhop of Toledo, who attended King Alphonſo in his laſt moments, and has left a chronicle of his times; nor is there any mention of it in Dutillet, a French writer, in his narrative

ing too cloſely adhered to fabulous writers and chronicles, which I ſhall hereafter more particularly mention. *See Appendix, letter (E.)*

of

of the Royal Treaſury and Archives, nor even in Caſan, who treats it as a chimerical pretenſion of the French, without the leaſt ſhadow of foundation.

The Marquis of Mondejar further ſets forth, that theſe groundleſs claims in favor of the French, were firſt brought forward by Auteuil, and afterwards followed by Marco Antonio de Dominis, and thoſe two literary characters the St. Marthé's.

Again, as if the good Queen BLANCHE was doomed to be the ſport of hiſtorical fancy, or idle conceit, a ludicrous tale was further countenanced and even mentioned by Mariana, introduced from the romantic chronicles of Spain, inſinuating that the French had ſent ambaſſadors into Spain, to propoſe the marriage with one of the daughters of King ALPHONSO, and to report which they found moſt beautiful. That the ambaſſadors finding that one of the princeſſes was named URRACCA and the other BLANCHE, they had given the preference to the latter, although the other

ſiſter

sister was more beautiful, on account of hearing a more pleasing name, and less equivocal than that of URRACCA, which in the Spanish language, likewise means a magpye.

The Marquis of Mondejar justly observes, that nothing could be more absurd and silly, as well as unworthy of history; and shews that the preference given to the Princess BLANCHE on this occasion, was on account of her being the youngest sister, as born in the year 1188, and only twelve years of age, when she was betrothed to Lewis of France, eldest son of King PHILIP AUGUSTE, a juvenile prince much about the same age as herself.

In mentioning these two royal ladies, and highly illustrious queens, it is extremely difficult to render that tribute of justice and praise, due to their exalted character and fame; in speaking of whom, the fair sex of Great Britain will not fail to sympathize, when they contemplate such brilliant examples of virtue and female perfection.

It

It is very remarkable that this alliance of ALPHONSO THE GOOD with ELEONORA THE BENEVOLENT of England, ſhould in addition to their numerous offſpring, have been ſo particularly bleſſed with theſe two excellent daughters: BOTH Queens, univerſally beloved, BOTH exhibiting to their family, the moſt exemplary patterns of benevolence and virtue; BOTH regents in their reſpective dominions, during the abſence of the kings their ſons, who were combating the enemies of chriſtianity; BOTH their ſons, alike enrolled for their meritorious deeds, in the calendar of ſaints; St. Lewis, ſon and heir of BLANCHE; St. Ferdinand, ſon and heir of BERENGARIA.

Finally, both theſe incomparable Queens, the daughters of an Engliſh princeſs, and jointly with her, affording to the world examples of admiration, reſerved to themſelves, and in a manner heretofore unknown in the annals of hiſtory.

SECT.

SECTION VI.

TO return to the exploits of the noble ALPHONSO; we now view him again at the head of his armies, diſplaying freſh proofs of magnanimity, and valour, in favour of his ſubjects, and in defence of his kingdoms.

The Mahometans in Spain, perceiving they were every day more eagerly preſſed, by the active ſpirit of ALPHONSO, found it neceſſary to ſtrengthen themſelves further, againſt ſo courageous a prince. Accordingly they ſent ambaſſadors to Africa, with preſſing invitations to ABEN JACOB, BEN JOSEPH, ſtiled EMIR EL MUMELIN, that is, "Prince of Believers," or, as he is named in the Spaniſh Chronicles, the MIRAMOMELIN of Africa, a prince of great renown, who held his imperial court in the city of Morocco, and to whom all the other princes were ſubordinate on the African coaſt, from the utmoſt limits of Egypt towards the eaſt, and as far as the Atlantic

on the weſt, being the moſt powerful of all the ſovereigns who had reigned in Africa after the caliph, on which account he had moreover obtained the pompous title of Al Manzor, or "The Invincible."

This prince, to the qualities of a great general, united thoſe of a magnificent and liberal ſovereign, who not only diſtinguiſhed his reign, by the erecting of ſumptuous palaces, and ſtructures of elegance and taſte, but further by ſtrong forts and caſtles for the defence and ſecurity of his dominions. He built the caſtle of *Manſoria*, near the mouth of the river Salee, to ſerve as an aſylum to travellers during the night, as the inhabitants in all that neighbourhood bore a very bad character. He likewiſe built the city of *Alcazar Quibir*, three leagues from Larache; and that of *Alcazar Seguir* in the ſtraits of Gibraltar, between Tangier and Ceuta; finally, the great city of Rabat in the kingdom of Fez, which he adorned with moſques, colleges, and an aqueduct, beſides ſurrounding it with ſtrong walls, near two miles round, fortified by

ſquare

ſquare towers, incloſing not only the city, but the caſtle of Manſoria, and a large tract of ground, for palaces, gardens, and caſcades of water.*

This great prince readily accepted of the offers and invitations, made to him by his Mahometan friends in Spain, and with all expedition prepared himſelf to join them with a numerous army, with which he propoſed to invade the poſſeſſions of the Chriſtian kings, and overturn their religion, liberty, and monarchy.

The archbiſhop of Toledo, Don Roderic, paints in the moſt lamentable ſtrain,

* In M. Chenier's account of the empire of Morocco, in ſpeaking of the City of Rabat, it is mentioned that the houſes had been chiefly built, according to a tradition of the Moors, by Spaniſh ſlaves, a work which they had performed very ſlightly, on purpoſe that they might fall down on the Moors, which actually happened, and that in conſequence the ſlaves had been all put to death, before one of the gates of the city. See *The preſent State of the Empire of Morroco, tranſlated from the French of M. Chenier—Printed for G. and J. Robinſon, London*, 1788.

and pathetic expreſſion, the innumerable legions of Parthians, Ethiopians, and Arabs, which that potent ſovereign poured into Andaluſia, and exclaims in the romantic ſtyle of thoſe days, that by their infinite numbers they waſted the plains, levelled the mountains, and drank up the rivers, ſpreading univerſal devaſtation and terror.

This expedition was entered upon by the Mahometans, with all the fanaticiſm of an enthuſiaſtic people, perſuaded it would be grateful to their prophet, thus to ſpill Chriſtian blood, which would enſure to them future bliſs and delight, in a paradiſe replete with gratifications, raviſhing beyond meaſure; the whole ſuited to their corrupt ſyſtem, and unparalleled ſenſuality.

Such incitements being publicly held forth, by the mufti, in the principal moſque of Morocco, recruits flew with eagerneſs to the ſtandard of their prophet, and in a ſhort

ſhort ſpace of time, the army embarked, in high exultation, croſſed the Straits of Gibraltar, aad effecting their landing in Spain without impediment, ſoon after rendezvouſed in the environs of the famous city of Seville, plentifully ſupplied with refreſhments, which that opulent city, agreeably ſeated on the banks of the river Guadalquivir, in a moſt luxuriant province, abundantly afforded them, in addition to a cordial reception from their infidel friends.

The army of Almanzor having halted here a few days, marched forward to the no leſs celebrated city of Cordova, where they were further reinforced by their Mahometan allies: here a general plan of attack being concerted, the grand army of Almanzor was put in motion, and ordered to direct their march towards Caſtile, in queſt of the Chriſtian forces; the infidels taking with them that rebel Caſtilian officer, Fernan Perez de Caſtro, whom they found at Cordova, and who now continued ſhamefully, to bear a high com-

mand, in the Mahometan army, againſt his native country!

The intrepid King of Caſtile was not diſmayed at this formidable invaſion; with great vigor of mind, as well as perſonal courage, he aſſembled his loyal forces, and putting himſelf at their head, in a ſhort but well adapted ſpeech, he repreſented to his faithful Caſtilians the neceſſity of facing the enemy with their wonted proweſs; that for his part, he would lead them on, to protect every thing that was dear to them all, and die or conquer in defence of his kingdom and people.

The troops of Alphonſo loudly re-echoed their loyal attachment and fidelity, intreating their ſovereign, only to ſhew them the enemy, and they doubted not, but that from the goodneſs of their cauſe, and the courage of their countrymen, with the preſence of their ſovereign, they ſhould obtain a deciſive victory over the perfidious invaders of their rights, and holy religion.

Appli-

Applications were made at the ſame time, by King Alphonſo to the kings of Leon and of Navarre, intreating them to lay aſide all perſonal jealouſies, and unite in the common cauſe, in defence of their lives and properties, and in ſhort, of every thing moſt dear to them all, which would ſoon be in iminent danger, if they acted with miſtaken reſerve, and did not come forward to oppoſe an enemy, that equally vowed deſtruction on all ſides, and whoſe ambition knew no bounds.

Theſe ſovereigns entertained the King of Caſtile with fair words, and vague declarations. However, the time advanced, and he found them backward in marching their troops, or fulfilling his expectations: on the contrary, private motives of ſelf intereſt, and other miſtaken notions, in a cauſe of this magnitude, which threatened the deſtruction of Europe, prevented unfortunately their coming forward with alacrity, and affording the wiſhed for ſupport. Nevertheleſs, the magnanimous Alphonſo, having on the other hand received

ſuccours from Gaſcony, and Provence, boldly determined to march forward, and attack the enemy at all events, without waiting for his Spaniſh allies.

Thus animated, and depending upon the bravery of his own loyal ſubjects, attended by that gallant general Don Diego Lopez de Haro, Lord of Biſcay, one of the moſt renowned captains of the age, on whoſe valor Alphonſo placed great confidence; the noble king, fluſhed with ſanguine expectation, diſplayed the banner of Caſtile, and with his brave countrymen marched forward in good order from Toledo, in queſt of the infidel army, without any further dependance on the Kings of Leon, or of Navarre.

1195. In this critical ſituation, chiefly ſupported by his perſonal courage, and the bravery and ardor of his troops, the King of Caſtile came up with the army of Almanzor, on the 19th of July, 1195, near the Caſtle of Alarcos.

The

The enemy were no ſooner in ſight, than Alphonſo with more courage than prudence, determined on an immediate attack. A moſt bloody conflict was the conſequence, in which both armies fought with infinite bravery, and equally evinced a determined reſolution to conquer, or periſh.

The Chriſtian army at laſt, totally overpowered by numbers, after performing the greateſt feats of heroiſm, found themſelves obliged to retreat. Alphonſo ſtill animating his battalions, rode up amongſt the thickeſt of the enemy, regardleſs of danger, and rallying his troops with all the coolneſs of the moſt experienced veteran; unfortunately, he received at this juncture a deſperate wound in the thigh, which put him to exquiſite pain: ſtill, he maintained his ground, almoſt fainting from the loſs of blood, when ſome of his generals, very reluctantly to ALPHONSO, conveyed him off the field of battle, to prevent his falling into the hands of the enemy.

Many Caſtilians of note fell on this unfortunate day, amongſt others, the brave Count Rodrigo Gonzales Giron, covered with wounds and with glory, as did Don Gonzalo Viegas, a Portugueſe knight, maſter of the military order of Avis, who with a ſelect corps of his countrymen, had been generouſly ſent by the King of Portugal, in a cauſe of this importance, to the aſſiſtance of the King of Caſtile.

Such was the fatal battle of Alarcos, where the Chriſtians having been obliged to give way on all ſides, one part of the army retreated into the Caſtle of Alarcos, of which Lopez de Haro was governor, and was in hopes to defend againſt the enemy. But finding the caſtle without proviſions, in vain he attempted to make a ſally to relieve the place, but the Caſtilians not being able to ſupport him at that juncture, his efforts were ineffectual, and he was obliged to return back.

At this unlucky moment he met Fernan Perez de Caſtro in the field, who told him the

the Emperor ALMANZOR had ſworn on the Koran, that if the caſtle was not immediately delivered to his forces, he would put all the garriſon to the ſword; but if it was yielded to him, and twelve knights ſent in the mean time, as hoſtages, who were to remain priſoners in Morocco, the garriſon might retire with the honors of war, except the Counts of Lara, his particular enemies, who were the cauſe of all his misfortunes.

De Haro conſented to every thing, only deſiring that ſince he would not let him carry off the Laras, he might take two other eſquires in lieu of them, adding that if De Caſtro would wait for him, he would bring him the keys of the fortreſs, which being agreed upon, De Haro returned to the fortreſs; then ordering the two Counts de Lara, who were his ſons in law, to mount their horſes ſpeedily, and in ſilence, and follow him, he rode up to the ſpot where De Caſtro was waiting, and after ſome converſation, until his ſuppoſed eſquires were beyond the enemies lines, he

took leave of De Caſtro, recommending to him at this laſt farewell, not to forget his religion, or his native country; then clapping ſpurs to his vigorous courſer, he fled precipitately with the Laras, and never ſtopped until he had reached a place of ſafety.

De Caſtro then returned to ALMANZOR, who marched forward, and took poſſeſſion of the Caſtle of Alarcos. De Caſtro ſtanding at the gate, waiting impatiently for the Laras, and enquiring after them, was told they went away with De Haro; he then diſcovered he had been deceived; however, with the honor of a ſoldier, he declared, that ſhould not prevent him, on his ſide, from keeping his word; accordingly he treated the garriſon generouſly, and eſcorted them to their friends, after which Almanzor diſmantling this fortreſs, and ruining all its fortifications, proceeded in full force to the Caſtle of Calatrava, which he likewiſe demoliſhed, inhumanly maſſacring all the brave knights, who had defended it.

Theſe

Theſe circumſtances made a lively ſenſation on the Caſtilian army, and the diſtinguiſhed commander, Lopez de Haro, the favorite of King Alphonſo, came in for his ſhare of their diſpleaſure on this fatal diſcomfiture. The jealouſy of rivals added weight to their grief, and contributed much to raiſe againſt him a ſuſpicion of ſhyneſs in the defeat of Alarcos, not directly for want of courage or of loyalty, but merely through pique, the whole ariſing from a ſuppoſed miſconception of ſome words, it was pretended by the enemies of De Haro, had fallen from him, in conſequence of the king's having compared the ſoldiers of Eſtremadura to thoſe of Caſtile, and paid them ſome compliments, the pure reſult of royal benevolence; for when different ſtates are under the ſame ſovereign, they claim equally his regard; the mere local diſpoſition, temper, and habits forming the only variation, while in the aggregate, they all, are equally generous, valiant, and loyal.

Under

Under theſe impreſſions of jealouſy, various rumours were circulated in the camp againſt the chivalry of De Haro, who had then retired into his own domains in Biſcay, and during his abſence, four charges were brought againſt him:

1ſt. That he had ſaid, he never would abandon his liege lord in the field, being ſtandard bearer to the king.

2d. That he never would yield to the infidels any caſtle belonging to his ſovereign.

3d. That he never would give any hoſtages, that he did not pledge himſelf to redeem.

4th. And laſt, that he had ſaid, whenever he clapped ſpurs to his horſe, in order to charge the enemy, he never would turn his back, but conquer or die.

The contrary of all which declarations they alledged,

alledged, had happened at the unfortunate battle of Alarcos, and on his ſurrendering afterwards the caſtle of that name, under the circumſtances before mentioned.

But theſe were not the only vexations of the General De Haro; both love and war, had ſeemed equally diſpoſed, to ruffle the peace of his mind. Long before this, his domeſtic happineſs had been moſt feelingly interrupted; his once chaſte counteſs, the Lady Maria Manrique, had unfortunately liſtened to the ſoft ſtrains of an amorous ſwain, and laviſhed thoſe treaſures, which, before had bleſſed the fond arms of the magnanimous warrior.

A certain blackſmith at Burgos, had a ſon, whoſe humble ſtation in life had been recompenſed, by kind nature, with an engaging perſon, and whoſe figure and behaviour were ſuch, as to captivate the tender heart of that lady, to ſuch a degree, that the forge which hitherto had little value, now furniſhed ſhafts, irreſiſtible to the im-

paſſioned heart of the frail Counteſs de Haro, who regardleſs of the diſparity of rank, and every other conſideration of virtue, or honor, deſerted her lord, and without any other guide, but weakneſs and imprudence, eloped with the amorous blackſmith, and totally abandoned her affectionate huſband.

The diſconſolate general recovering from the grief, which the firſt impreſſion of ſuch conduct occaſioned, determined to hold the counteſs hereafter in ſovereign contempt, relinquiſhing all thoughts of a perſon he once ſo tenderly loved, and had retired into his domains in Biſcay, where a variety of important affairs both civil, and military, engaged his conſtant attention. His attachment was ever the ſame, for the King of Caſtile :—he always ſhewed the ſtrongeſt deſire to come forward in his defence upon every occaſion, and many other loyal Biſcayans followed his example.

We

We ſhall not enlarge upon the private thoughts of the General De Haro, upon this trying occaſion, which, no doubt, were doubly afflicting, when ſo many examples of conjugal fidelity were conſpicuous in Caſtile, and De Haro could not reproach himſelf, with having acted otherwiſe at all times, than, as an affectionate huſband.

Under theſe conſiderations, the general totally abandoned the ungrateful counteſs, and left her to mourn in ſilence for her tranſgreſſions. In a ſhort time after, her fickle paramour deſerted her likewiſe, in queſt of new adventures, and the Counteſs de Haro ſeeing herſelf univerſally deſpiſed, and abandoned by all her relations and friends, fell into deſpair; grief and remorſe overwhelmed her; ſhe languiſhed for a ſhort time, and broken hearted, ſoon ended her days in the utmoſt privacy, and contempt* !

* *Nobleza de Andaluſia, por Gonzalo Argote de Molina.*—En Sevilla, 1588.

It

It muſt, however, be recollected of this lady, that in her laſt moments, when reflection, and a due ſenſe of her duty ſucceeded to ungovernable paſſion and weakneſs, ſhe repented of her unjuſtifiable conduct, and ordered in her will, by way of example to others, that, when her remains were conveyed to the monaſtery of Huerta, they ſhould not be depoſited in the family vault, but inhumed beneath the porch at the entrance of the church, in penance for her ſins, with a plain marble ſlab, and a buſt, that every female who entered the church, might behold it, take example from her weakneſs, and guard againſt ſimilar frailties, and ſhameful behaviour.

Here it was, that in future ages the great Emperor, Charles the Fifth, King of Spain, in one of his excurſions, having caſually viſited this monaſtery, and noticed this monument; after enquiring into the motive; out of tender compaſſion for the memory of an unfortunate perſon, who, in her laſt moments, had not cloſed her days in a hard-hearted manner, the Emperor

was

was pleased to give orders, that her remains might be conveyed into the church, and deposited in the family vault of her ancestors, saying, "She had now done penance enough."

After the death of this lady, the General De Haro had married again, with the daughter of Don Pedro Rodriguez de Azara, by whom he had two daughters, *Urracca* and *Maria*, who married two brothers of the house of Lara, and these were the two knights he had taken along with him, at his flight from the castle of Alarcos *.

The

* This virtuous daughter of Don Pedro Rodriguez de Azara, was descended from one of those families of private gentlemen of ancient lineage, distinguished by the name of *Infancones*, yet De Haro, as sovereign lord of Biscay, had conceived this alliance, as rather beneath his dignity and rank; but the lady, with all the true and noble spirit of a Castilian, made him sensible of his error. The general, on a certain occasion, returning from a famous tournament, at Burges, where he had gained the prize, his lady and attendants assisting to take off his armour, it was perceived that he had

The ſcenes of love and war being frequently concomitant, it is preſumed, that the Britiſh ſoldier, into whoſe hands theſe antiquated memoirs may happen to fall, will not be diſpleaſed with this digreſſion, while we now return to the camp of Alphonſo.

We have ſeen the flight of De Haro, ſoon after which, the troops being in a

had been wounded by a lance, a ſplinter of which remained in his thigh, and De Haro retiring to have the wound dreſſed, and returning in good ſpirits, his lady expreſſed her ſurprize that he bore the pain with ſuch compoſure, on which De Haro replied, *Honrada eſta agora la hija del Infancon.* "The daughter of the *Infancon* has now been ho-"noured;" to which ſhe anſwered with much ſpirit, "Sir, this *Infancon's* daughter was always "highly honoured in her own country, and if a "better gentleman than yourſelf, could have been "found, ſhe would have been given to him."

The great lordſhip of Biſcay fell afterwards from the houſe of Haro, into that of Lara, and from thence to the crown of Caſtile, under King Peter, and remains ſo to this day, the Kings of Spain ſtiling themſelves Lords of Biſcay, granting to the inhabitants all their ancient rights and privileges.

ſtate

ſtate of much diſtreſs, the Sovereign of Caſtile found himſelf obliged, with a ſhattered army, to break up his camp, and after making a truce with Almanzor, return to his capital of Toledo, to give ſome repoſe to his troops; with the firm reſolution however to repair his bad ſucceſs on a future day, and if poſſible drive the Africans back to their own country; or at leaſt cruſh their audacity and inſolence to ſuch a degree, as to reſtore peace and ſecurity to his kingdoms.

Almanzor, on his ſide, deemed it prudent to return immediately to Africa; he now perceived the dangers ariſing from remote and foreign conqueſt, and inordinate ambition; waſting his reſources at a great diſtance to dethrone other ſovereigns: during which, commotions at home made his preſence neceſſary, and convinced him of the impolicy of his projects, and vain attempts of univerſal dominion, and of rendering every ſtate ſubſervient to his tyranny.

While

While theſe ſerious reflections preſſed on the emperor's mind, news was brought him, that the Governor of Morocco had ſeized the opportunity of his abſence, to excite his ſubjects to rebellion. Almanzor had no ſooner returned to Africa, than he found the gates of Morocco ſhut againſt him, which obliged the ſovereign to lay ſiege to his own capital. The troops of Almanzor were ſo incenſed againſt the perfidy of theſe rebels, while eager to reſcue their wives and children out of the power of ſuch miſcreants, that they attacked their own countrymen with the greateſt fury, took the city of Morocco by ſtorm, and put the whole garriſon to the ſword. Moreover, to chaſtiſe the inhabitants, Almanzor refuſed the right of burial to the ſlain; and when expoſtulations were made for his ſeverity, intimating the dangers ariſing from putrefaction, he anſwered, that nothing was too ſevere for ſuch perfidious citizens, who had ſo ſhamefully taken up arms againſt their ſovereign, and cloſed this addreſs in a great paſſion, by telling them, "that however they might

"complain

" complain of thoſe noxious exhalations,
" nothing was ſo ſweet to him, as the
" dead body of a traytor."

The emperor of Morocco, through chagrin at the treachery of his own people, fell into a ſtate of deep melancholy, and reſolved on a pilgrimage to Mecca, leaving his dominions under the regency of his brother IBRAHIM; but the emperor not returning in a twelvemonth, the Africans proclaimed his ſon MAHOMET BEN NASSAR as ſucceſſor to his empire.

APPEN-

APPENDIX

TO

VOLUME THE FIRST.

Letter (A) page 34.

THE Houſe of *Guzman* is of great antiquity in Caſtile: they date their firſt ſettlement in that country, according to *Argote de Molina*, in the year 1068, when they were lords of the town and caſtle of Guzman in Caſtile; other writers trace their origin from Germany, and ſome, from the Dukes of Britanny, as they bear like them for coat armour, a Field, *Ermine*.

It is related of Don Alonzo Perez de Guzman, ſirnamed *The Good*, that being governor of the city of Tarifa in the reign of King Sancho, when beſieged by the Prince Don John, brother to King Sancho, with a body of Moors ſent to

him by the Emperor of Morocco, the infidels brought the eldeſt ſon of Guzman, then their priſoner, to the city gates, threatening to put him inſtantly to death, if his father did not immediately ſurrender the city: on which the inflexible Guzman ſent word to the enemy, that if he had five ſons, he would ſooner loſe them all, than ſurrender the city, and even threw a poignard from the ramparts to ſhew how little he was affected by their baſe threats; upon which the cruel infidels put his ſon to death, and ſoon after, finding this barbarous act had no effect on the governor, they raiſed the ſiege and retired with their forces. For this ſignal ſervice, King Sancho granted many privileges to the family of Guzman, alſo the extenſive and lucrative Tunny fiſhery, on the coaſt of Andaluſia, the grant of which has the following preamble: *For the many good and loyal ſervices, which you, Don Alonzo Perez de Guzman have rendered unto us, eſpecially by the death of your ſon, wherein you endeavoured to imitate our father Abraham, and when the Moors murdered your ſon, you offered them the weapon, in order to preſerve your oath of fidelity to us, and to hold the town of Tarifa, we, &c. &c.*

This general diſtinguiſhed himſelf on many other occaſions; was at the taking of Gibraltar, under King Ferdinand the Fourth, and loſt his life

life fighting againſt the Moors, at the battle of Gauſin, in 1309.—From him is deſcended Don John Alonzo Perez de Guzman, who ſided with the baſtard Henry de Traſtamara, whoſe mother was a *Guzman*, which Henry, after murdering King Peter with his own hand, became king of Caſtile, by the ſtile of Henry the Second, and in recompenſe to De Guzman, he gave him in marriage his natural daughter Beatrix, with the town of Niebla, and created him Count thereof in 1371. His ſon Don Henry de Guzman, ſecond Count of Niebla, was drowned at the ſiege of Gibraltar, by a boat overſetting, when endeavouring to ſave the life of a brother officer, whoſe horſe had plunged with him into the ſea. He left a ſon Don John de Guzman, created Duke of Medina Sidonia, on the 7th of February, 1445, for his life only, by King John the Second, which King Henry the Fourth of Caſtile, in the year 1460, extended to his legitimate iſſue; but the duke having none by his dutcheſs, the moſt noble Lady Maria de la Cerda, he obtained an extenſion of this ducal title and his patrimonial eſtate, on his illegitimate ſon Henry, by Iſabella de Meneſes, and he became the ſecond duke of Medina Sidonia, anceſtor of that noble and illuſtrious houſe, who are premier Dukes of the kingdom of Spain.—*Nobiliario Genealogico de los Reyes y Titulos de Eſpana par Alonſo Lopez de Haro, Madrid* 1622.

The hiſtorian Mariana, who is no leſs ſevere againſt King Sancho, for rebelling againſt his father King Alphonſo the Tenth, than he is againſt King Alphonſo on other accounts, ſays nothing of this extraordinary act of Guzman at Tarifa, and only adds, that he was governor thereof, and generally called THE GOOD, from his extenſive charities and benevolence.

It now remains to ſhew the many diſtinguiſhed perſonages, which the name of *Guzman* has furniſhed to many ſovereign houſes of Europe.

I.

TERESA DE GUZMAN,

Natural daughter to Alphonſo the Sixth, King of Caſtile, by Tereſa de Guzman, and to whom King Alphonſo ceded territories in Portugal on her marriage with Henry of Burgundy.

II.

BEATRIX DE GUZMAN,

Natural daughter of King Alphonſo the Tenth, by Maria Guillen de Guzman, married in 1253 to Alphonſo the Third, King of Portugal, and, as a marriage portion, had a large territory granted to her in the kingdom of Algarve.

III. LEO-

III.

LEONORA DE GUZMAN,

By whom King Alphonſo the Eleventh had Henry de Traſtamara, who after murdering Don Pedro, King of Caſtile, with his own hand, was proclaimed King of Caſtile, by the title of Henry the Second.

IV.

THE QUEEN LOUISA DE GUZMAN,

Daughter to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, and married to John Duke of Braganza, proclaimed King of Portugal.

V.

QUEEN CATHERINE,

Daughter of Queen Louiſa de Guzman and her illuſtrious conſort, John King of Portugal, and married to Charles the Second, King of Great Britain, &c. After the demiſe of King Charles the Second, Queen Catherine returned to her native country, and ended her days in Liſbon.

For Letter (B.) page 82, *the Reader is referred to Letter (F.)*

Letter (B) page 99.

DON JOHN Antonio de Vera y Zuniga, in his book entitled EL ENBAXADOR, or "The Ambaſſador," in which there is much curious information, dedicated to Philip the Third, King of Spain; when ſpeaking of Don Diego de Anaya, Archbiſhop of Seville, has given a very ſilly tale and not credible, of what he pretends, as extracted from old manuſcripts, and the hiſtory of King John, had paſſed at the council of Conſtance, between Don Diego de Anaya, and the ambaſſadors of England and France. He is pleaſed to tell us, that when a controverſy took place, reſpecting precedency, between the ambaſſadors of England and France, with the Spaniards, the Engliſh ambaſſador took the whole matter on himſelf, reſolving to ſettle every thing by ſtrength of body, rather than by power of argument, which the Archbiſhop of Seville perceiving, and that no reaſoning would anſwer the purpoſe, reſolved to avail himſelf of the ſtrength which nature afforded, and threw the Engliſhman on the ground in the church, then taking him in his arms, conveyed him to an arched vault contiguous, the door of which was open, and locked him up in it; then returned to Fernandez de Cordova, and made him the ſpeech before

before related, all which is highly improbable, and I only offer it, merely as I find it. The ſame writer ſays further, that it is generally held for certain, that ſince that time, the family of Anaya have added to their eſcutcheon four bends *azur*, in a field *or*, being the coat of arms over the vault at the period in queſtion: that the ſame were placed over the gate of the college of St. Bartholomew, founded by the Archbiſhop in Salamanca, and are likewiſe to be ſeen upon his tomb, in the cloyſter of the old church. EL EMBAXADOR, *por D. Juan Antonio de Vera y Zuniga; a Don Filipe* III. *Glorioſo Monarcha de Eſpana, &c.—Sevilla* 1620.

The reader will juſtly appreciate the ſmall degree of credit due to ſuch a romantic fable. It was not believed by my late worthy friend Don Antonio Ponz, who has ſaid a great deal about Cuenca in his *Travels through Spain*, already quoted, and relates the circumſtance in the manner I have given it in the text, having followed him therein. We know that Sir Robert Wingfield, Mareſchal of Calais, and of the privy council to King Henry the Eighth, went ambaſſador with the Biſhop of Wincheſter to the Council of Lateran, and the next year to the Emperor Maximilian, when he procured out of the archives of the city of Conſtance, and cauſed to be printed at Louvain in 1517. *Diſcerptatio*

Super Dignitate et Magnitudine Regnorum Britannici, et Gallici, habita ab utriuſque oratoribus et Legatis in Conſilio Conſtanſienſi.——*Peerage of Ireland by John Lodge, Eſq. reviſed by Mervyn Archdall, A. M.—Dublin*, 1789. Monſ. Lenfant, in his hiſtory of the Council of Conſtance, is pleaſed to ſay, that the manuſcripts referred to by Sir Robert Wingfield, are very imperfect and incorrect; and that Mr. Vonderhart, in the fifth volume of his collection, has given a more accurate ſtatement thereof, of all which *Sub Judice lis eſt.*

Letter (C) page 132.

IT was decided at a general council, at which Pope Nicholas II. preſided, in 1050, that the College of Cardinals ſhould elect the Popes: a long ſeries of years elapſed before theſe cardinals were indulged with that peculiar ornament, *The Red Hat.* This was given to them by Pope Innocent IV. in 1245, and two centuries more paſſed, previous to their obtaining the ſcarlet robe, viz. in 1464; yet this order of clergy aroſe to ſuch a degree of ſplendor, that they were conſidered in a manner as equal to ſovereigns, and ſtiled themſelves in Rome, reſpecting

ing ſpiritual affairs, the Protectors of Kingdoms. Pope Nicholas III. increaſed their number to twenty; and at the Councils of Baſil and Conſtance, John XXII. added four more to their number. Leo. X. increaſed their number to ſixty-five in the year 1517. Paul IV. again added five more to this order; and finally Sixtus V. to ſhew the higheſt favour, enacted, in 1566, that their number ſhould be indefinite, and unbounded like their magnificence, of which Cardinal Woolſey gave a ſplendid example in this country.

When I viſited Rome in 1777, the ſacred College of Cardinals were at the head of government in that ancient and ſplendid city, and preſided at all tribunals, and temporal power on behalf of the Pope. This put them to great expence, for which they were amply remunerated out of the pontifical revenue. The moſt general ſtate of a cardinal in Rome, conſiſted of a a houſehold, at the head of which was a *Maeſtro di Camera*, or "Gentleman of the chamber," with two aſſiſtants or grooms of the chamber, who were conſidered as gentlemen by birth, or holding rank as ſuch, beſides domeſtic chaplains, almoners, and ſecretaries; alſo a coach of ſtate, 12 horſes in the ſtable, with the neceſſary attendants, and a ſplendid livery; but this is nothing compared to the magnificence of ſome

cardinals, who in exterior pomp, ſumptous palaces, and lordly train, vie in ſome degree, if not with ſovereigns, at leaſt with the greateſt lords at the courts of chriſtian kings and emperors. But ſince the plunder of Rome, and the pillage of that city by the French republicans, led on by the General Buonaparte, the dreadful misfortunes of that devoted capital, are too recent, and well known, to be repeated on this occaſion; nor the fatal cataſtrophe of the late Pope Pius the Sixth, whom I once beheld in all dignity, in his palace in Rome, and witneſſed the high reſpect and veneration in which he was univerſally held by all ranks in that renowned capital, but, *Sic tranſit Gloria Mundi!*

Letter (D) page 136.

THERE are few readers who will doubt the zealous attachment of Philip the Second, King of Spain, to the See of Rome: we ſhall find, notwithſtanding, how jealous even that prince was of the immunities of the Spaniſh church, and eager to reſiſt any encroachment whatſoever on its rights, of which he gave a remarkable inſtance reſpecting the church of Calahorra, the canons of which had reſiſted the viſitation of their biſhop,

biſhop, made in obedience to the expreſs orders of the king. The caſe is related by Don Luis Cabrera de Cordova, gentleman of the houſehold to King Philip the Third, who is conſidered as a writer of great veracity and judgment. It is as follows:

"Diſpatch of Philip the Second, when at Liſbon, addreſſed in the King's name, by Gabriel de Sayas, Secretary of State, and ſent to Cardinal Granvelle, Preſident of the council of Italy at Madrid."

Liſbon, 1582.

"On the 24th of laſt month, in the morning, "three writings were fixed up againſt the door "of the cathedral of Calahorra, and three of "the ſame tenor, on that of Logrono, ſigned "by the Nuntio, one contained The Bull *In* "*Cena Domini*. The other againſt the Biſhop "of Calahorra, declaring his biſhopric to be "vacated, and condemning him to be de-"prived thereof, and his eſtates confiſcated, "with the fruits of the biſhopric to the "apoſtolic chamber.

"The third related to the *Corregidor* of the "town of Logrono, and to a judge, and other "officers of juſtice, declaring them to have "likewiſe incurred the penalties of The Bull *In* "*Cena*, becauſe, by virtue of my orders ſent

" unto them by my council, they had laid an " attachment, and ſequeſtered the temporalities " of ſome capitular canons, and other clergy, " in which, their only fault, was the having " obeyed my orders, ſent to them, in purſuance " of Royal Decrees conformable to cuſtoms im- " memorial of the Kings my predeceſſors.

" With reſpect to the Biſhop, nothing ap- " pearing againſt him, except his obedience to " my orders, in making a viſitation of the " church, notwithſtanding any *Concordat* to the " contrary, alledged by the chapter; ſuppoſing " then, this to be an offence, they ſhould have " been more conſiderate, and not have proceed- " ed with ſuch rigour. The zeal of the biſhop, " being rather commendable in execution of " the council of Trent, and of my orders, con- " formable to what was done by his predeceſ- " ſor, in 1553, who made a ſimilar viſitation " notwithſtanding the like reſiſtance, under pre- " tence of this *Concordat*, on which account the " canons of that church were ordered out of " the kingdom; but afterwards having ſigned a " public inſtrument, binding themſelves never " to alledge the *Concordat* in future, the affair " was made up, which gave no diſpleaſure to " the Apoſtolic See at that time.

" I there-

" I therefore conſider as a great irregularity " what the nuntio has done, and of infinite pre- " judice to our royal ſtate, the more as he has " written to me, that he had orders to act in " this manner, and proceeded therein without " waiting for my anſwer, which could not be " ſent in ſo ſhort a time, on account of the " multiplicity of affairs, and the neceſſity of my " informing myſelf previouſly: however, I did " anſwer him laſt poſt, and gave him my ſenti- " ments thereon.

" When I ſee what reply is made to me, I " ſhall then take the matter into further conſi- " deration. In the mean time, I judge it pro- " per to acquaint you with what has paſſed, " that on meeting him, or ſending for him, you " may tell him the diſpleaſure I feel, as well " on account of the act itſelf, as for the man- " ner in which it was proceeded upon, which " affords me juſt grounds of complaint, which " I am willing to overlook for the preſent, on " account of the good diſpoſition of the nuntio " hitherto: being ſatisfied you tell him my " mind on what is paſt, and that hence forward " I ſhall inquire into, and ſettle this matter, " particularly the principal part, as may be " moſt ſuitable to the ſervice of God."

I THE KING.

The

The following poſtſcript at the foot of the above diſpatch was written in the king's own hand.

Theſe affairs of the Nuntio, and the Collector, preſs ſo much upon me, that I dread ſome great inconvenience will follow. It ſeems very extraordinary, that I, alone, who have ſo much reſpect for the Apoſtolic See, with ſuch care of my dominions, and endeavours, that others ſhould do the like, inſtead of being thanked as I ought, meet with uſurpations of my juſt and legal authority, convenient for the ſervice of God, and the government committed by his divine grace to my charge: a different conduct is obſerved towards thoſe whoſe actions are the reverſe of mine. Therefore, I may perhaps feel myſelf forced to purſue a new courſe, without any deviation from my right. I know full well, that I ſhould not permit matters to proceed to ſuch lengths. I aſſure you they tire me heartily, and almoſt wear out my patience, however great it may be.

Should things then come to this paſs, they may be ſorry for it, as in ſuch contingencies, one does not always conſider things ſo coolly, as on other occaſions; I ſee that if the Low Countries belonged to any one elſe but myſelf, they would have done wonders, to prevent the loſs of religion in thoſe parts, but, becauſe thoſe ſtates are my property, they are indifferent, as I ſhould be the chief ſufferer therein.

Many

Many other things I could ſay to you, but it is midnight, and I am greatly fatigued; for this reaſon I cannot at preſent, nor for ſome days to come, give you an anſwer as I could wiſh, to ſome other papers of yours now before me.

I THE KING.

The hiſtorian Cabrera further relates, that the Nuntio perſiſting in his oppoſition to the King's will, his Majeſty gave orders, that it ſhould be notified to him, that ſince he had broken through all rules of decorum, and oppoſed his juſt authority, in the government of his kingdoms, leſſening him in the eſteem of his ſubjects, and would not deſiſt from ſuch behaviour, he might take himſelf away from his dominions, in God's name, and return home.

In conſequence of which, orders were given to the maſter of the horſe to his majeſty, to provide a ſuitable equipage for the Nuntio, from the king's ſtables, and Don Diego de Cordova conducted him to Alcala; and the *Alcaldes* of the court, ſupreme officers of police, further conveyed there his retinue and ſervants; and the king wrote a letter to Pope Gregory XIII. intimating the caſe, and, that his holineſs might ſend another Nuntio if he pleaſed, to co-operate with him in the eccleſiaſtical adminiſtration of the church, and all matters thereunto belonging;

ing; and, that if ſuch qualified perſon behaved himſelf more reſpectfully, than the former Nuntio his predeceſſor had done, he ſhould be well received, and treated accordingly. *Hiſtoria de Filipe II. Rey de Eſpana, por Don Louis Cabrera de Cordova, &c.—Madrid*, 1619.

As the learned writer Don Luis de Cabrera, was a gentleman of diſtinction at the court of Philip the Third, I have the more readily introduced the documents which he laid before his countrymen with the licence and approbation of his court. This induces me to offer another authentic ſtate paper, publiſhed by the ſame hiſtorian, whoſe curious hiſtory I have now before me in its original language.

The learned hiſtorian of Philip's life, Dr. Watſon, mentions that Philip had conſulted the divines of Spain, to know whether he might wage war againſt Pope Paul IV. who, as a temporal prince, had manifeſted ſuch hoſtility to the dominions of Spain: but as our Britiſh hiſtorian has not given their anſwer, I annex it at preſent to ſhew the readineſs which thoſe divines manifeſted, to check the power of that pontiff, as well as prevent his further encroachments, on the franchiſes and liberties of the Spaniſh church. This opinion was as follows:

The

The Opinion of the Divines of Spain, ſent to Philip the Second when in England, in 1556, *by Melchior Cano, D. D. adviſing Philip to declare War againſt* Pope Paul the Fourth, in anſwer to the King's deſire *for their opinion.*

Stateth,

"That his Majeſty's kingdoms would have "grounds of complaint and diſcontent, if, pur- "ſuant to his coronation oath, King Philip did "not put a ſtop to theſe diſorders, and as their "guardian, and protector, ſhield his ſubjects "from all injury, according to the law of na- "ture, as well as thoſe of wardſhip, even "againſt his own father; ſince all dread of in- "convenience ceaſes, when the cauſe and mo- "tives of reſiſtance are juſt—It being abſo- "lutely neceſſary, in times like the preſent, "that all the world ſhould ſee, he had power, "as well as authority, to defend his dominions: "for, if his majeſty was remiſs therein, it would "not be attributed to religious motives, or virtue, "but merely to weakneſs, and inability. That "if ſuch opinions gained credit in Rome, both "catholics and proteſtants would ſoon throw "off all reſtraint, and proceed to further extre- "mities; therefore, the defence of the church, "by putting a ſtop to theſe evils, was of the "utmoſt conſequence. If this was neglected, "the remedy was precarious, while the miſ- "chief remained poſitive and immediate: thus,

"when

" when one ſees another lay ſnares, or ſhow his " bow, we are not bound to wait till he ſhoots " his arrows. It is ſufficient the Pope has " raiſed troops, and menaces, to juſtify the other " party to take up arms, in ſelf defence.

" The motives and declarations of war are " decided by the ſame laws of rights and juſ- " tice, as thoſe of private injury; by which the " perſons attacked are juſtified, in reſiſting " againſt thoſe who aſſault them, without being " obliged to wait any longer, and may proceed " againſt the offender, within the limits, dic- " tated by the nature of the offence, without its " being termed an act of violence, although it " were an act of combat; ſince the uſe of arms, " is juſtifiable in defence of life and property. " Therefore, the waging war cannot be reputed " a crime in itſelf, ſince it is none, and ſhould " be attributed to the juſtice, and neceſſity, of " ſelf defence, which occaſioned the meaſure.

" If it be deemed juſt, to attack an enemy, " with a view to obtain peace, the end and pur- " poſe of war, it becomes an act of vigor, and " manhood, not contrary to reaſon, or to any " laws, human, or divine; ſince God comforted " his people, and gave them rules for fighting in " a juſt cauſe, and adviſed them to give battle; " ſo that, the act of attacking an enemy, is not

only

" only legal, but neceſſary, and even commend-
" able, being licit, both by canon and civil law,
" which holds it to be lawful, to wage war
" againſt an enemy: of courſe, if this is licit
" and becoming through neceſſity, the giving
" battle muſt be ſo, likewiſe. Thus two knights
" being in the field of combat, the challenged,
" through neceſſity of defence, may begin the
" onſet, without waiting until the challenger at-
" tacks him; and when an enemy is in the field,
" in open hoſtility, and warfare, he may be at-
" tacked, and fallen upon, by every ſtratagem,
" and deviſe, conceived neceſſary, both to annoy
" and defeat him.

" This act of reſentment, in a juſt cauſe, for
" the good of the public, on the part of the
" king, is not only licit, but meritorious, in as
" much, as in ſuch caſes, he becomes the miniſ-
" ter of God, and the avenger of wrongs. Let
" his majeſty employ the proper remedies, and
" conſult ſoldiers, not civilians, in order to ap-
" ply the proper means, to chaſtiſe, by the
" power of his arms, all acts of injuſtice, com-
" mitted againſt him, indemnifying himſelf
" from the Pope, and his vaſſals, for all da-
" mages, and charges incurred, recollecting
" however, at the ſame time, that the perſon ſo
" corrected is our common father, and the vicar
" of Jeſus Chriſt, whom, if he were uſed with
inhumanity,

" inhumanity, it would bring diſgrace on eccle-
" ſiaſtical diſcipline, and ſcandal on religion.

" Wiſe kings have converted ſuch puniſh-
" ments, into proper advantages for the church,
" and for their kingdoms, in ſuch a manner,
" that the puniſhed, were not cruſhed, or demo-
" liſhed, but only chaſtiſed and terrified, for the
" future.

" Such, for example would happen, on
" making peace, if all the church livings in
" Spain, were rendered patrimonial; the tri-
" bunal of appeal to be with us, without the
" neceſſity of recurring to Rome, where an ap-
" peal ſhould only be admitted, (if holy writ,
" and ſound reaſon were attended to) on the
" moſt ſerious, and important occaſions, ſuch
" as Pope Innocent acknowledges in chapter
" *Majores de Baptiſmo*, as well as other Popes
" and General Councils. That the ſpoils, and
" firſt fruits of vacant biſhoprics, ſhould not be
" levied by Rome in theſe kingdoms. King
" Alphonſo who conquered Almeria in the æra
" 1293, ceded to the church of Oviedo, the firſt
" fruits of the deceaſed biſhops; Alphonſo the
" Eighth, and Conſtance his queen, had before
" made donations of them, and then they en-
" joyed the tythes.

" That

"That the Pope's Nuntio ſhould act, free of "all official expence, in his department, as is "done in France, or let him have an aſſeſſor "named by the king, with moderate fees, not "to exceed a decent ſupport for his own "perſon.

"That the clergy and merchants of our na- "tion be called home from Rome, and their "traders ſent from hence, on war being de- "clared.

"It is ordained by the canon law, that when "there is danger, delay, or impediment, in the "intercourſe with Rome, then the Spaniſh bi- "ſhops in their reſpective dioceſes, are to pro- "vide all matters relative to diſcipline, and the "care of ſouls, (even in particular caſes re- "ſerved to the Pope) on account of the immi- "nent neceſſity of the caſe.

"If the king wiſhes, that his authority ſhould "be enforced in a free, and independent man- "ner, let him not look for ſubſidies from the "church, which his miniſters would ſupply his "majeſty with, and his ſtates furniſh more am- "ply, than the Pope would grant to him from "eccleſiaſtical revenues.

Pope

Pope Paul IV. was ſo offended againſt Melchior Cano, (though a very learned divine, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the council of Trent) for ſending this opinion to King Philip, that he did all in his power to get him to Rome and ſhew his reſentment, but Philip appointed him to the biſhopric of the Canaries, and obliged the Pope to ratify his nomination.

It is much, that in this remonſtrance to King Philip, no notice was taken of the behaviour of Lewis XII. of France, whoſe conduct was in point on that occaſion, when he declared war againſt Pope Julius II. after ſolemnly conſulting the French Clergy on the meaſure, who approved of it, and declared it to be lawful. The Gallican church could furniſh many other inſtances; the firm conduct of Lewis IX. or the ſaint, not excepted, wherein a manly reſiſtance was diſplayed againſt the temporal power, and encroachments of the ſee of Rome upon their privileges and franchiſes.

Letter (E) page 153.

HAVING ſaid that the hiſtory of Mariana ſhould be read with ſome precaution, it behoves me to explain myſelf further, reſpecting this celebrated writer who made ſo much noiſe in the world in his time; as well for his political ſentiments, as by his hiſtorical labours; nor am I the firſt Engliſhman who in mentioning this writer has obſerved, that he cannot ſpeak very highly in his praiſe, neither of his love for his country, nor for truth, the firſt duty of an hiſtorian.

The Latin hiſtory of the Jeſuit Mariana firſt appeared at Toledo in 1592, brought down to the reign of Ferdinand and Iſabel, in twenty books, under the title of *Annales*. His Spaniſh hiſtory under the title of *Hiſtoria General de Eſpana*, was printed likewiſe at Toledo, in 1601, and dedicated to Philip III. of which a ſecond edition was publiſhed in 1608, which the author prefers to the former, and retracts what he ſaid before, reſpecting the Princeſs Blanche, and acknowledges ſhe was not the eldeſt daughter of King ALPHONSO THE GOOD.

In

In ſpeaking of this Spaniſh verſion, the author requeſts it may not be conſidered as a mere literal tranſlation of his former work, but rather as a performance, in which, as he tells the King, he proceeds with the liberty of a writer, who diſpoſes of his own property, altering and adapting his ſubſequent reflections and ſtatements, to the genius of his readers, whether ſcientific, or the more general claſs, who peruſe ſuch books, as much for entertainment, as information. This edition the learned author more particularly recommends, having made ſeveral corrections therein; and adviſes his countrymen, reſpecting dubious facts, to adhere to it, rather than to his Latin Annals, which being in a dead language, were deſigned chiefly for men of letters, and for the cloſet. A third Spaniſh edition followed in Madrid, in 1617, and again, during the life of the author, the firſt volume of a fourth edition made its appearance at Madrid in 1623, and the ſecond volume afterwards, at Toledo; but whether the author ever ſaw this edition is uncertain, as he ended his days in the Jeſuits College of Toledo, on the 16th of February, 1624, in the 92d year of his age.

So great was the fame of the Jeſuit Mariana, that numerous editions of his hiſtory in the Spaniſh language, ſucceſſively made their appear-

ance

ance fourteen in all, of which nine were printed in Spain, and the remainder at Antwerp, and other foreign parts, with additions, by different hands, excluſive of a variety of tranſlations in French, and in Engliſh. Finally, a fifteenth edition, under the inſpection, and at the expence of the royal library, was printed at Madrid in 1780, in two volumes in folio.

With regard to the work itſelf, as the author followed the hiſtorians Florian De Ocampo, and Garibai, both very credulous, and alſo Ambroſio De Morales, a diligent compiler, but indifferent critic, it is the leſs to be wondered at, that he ſhould fall into ſo many errors, which could not eſcape the criticiſms of ſo good a judge, and claſſic writer, as the illuſtrious Marquis de Mondejar, as well as of another ingenious critic, who expreſſes himſelf with ſome degree of aſperity. This was Pedro Mantuano, ſecretary to Don Bernardino de Velaſco, Lord High Conſtable of Caſtile and Leon, and who, in a work intitled *Advertencias a la Hiſtoria del Padre Juan de Mariana, de la compania de Jeſus*, printed at Madrid in 1613, animadverts very freely upon the Latin Annals, printed at Toledo in 1592, as alſo upon the Spaniſh edition of the year 1601.

Numerous are the innaccuracies of Mariana

pointed out by this ſecretary; he further reproaches him with the very indecent, and immodeſt language in which he traces the character of Henry IV. King of Caſtile, in his Latin Annals, which he tells him, he ſhould bluſh to tranſlate into Spaniſh; and then adds, that if he had confined ſuch impudicity, to his Spaniſh Chronicle, it might perhaps, only have had its influence in the narrow circle of the malevolent, whereas on being printed in Latin, it found its way abroad amongſt men of ſcience, in different parts of Europe, who might be miſled by ſuch ſcandalous expreſſions, while foreign writers, who were not bound to ſuch reſerve, ſuch as Paul Emile, Philipe de Comines, and Lucius Marineus, ſpeak much more decorouſly of this Prince, excluſive of their own hiſtorians in Spain, whom he mentions; who were equally decent.

My late worthy friend Don Gregorio Mayans, of the City of Valencia, has publiſhed a very laboured defence, not only of the many learned works; but alſo of the character of Mariana. See his Letters, 79, 80, 81. in vol. 2, of *Cartas morales, Militares, Civiles y Literarias, Madrid*, 1756.

After having ſaid ſo much, of this famous writer; ſhould it be attempted to weigh his merit by the ſtandard of criticiſm, it muſt be allowed,

allowed, there are more than ſufficient grounds for animadverſion; but then, on the part of candour, it will be recollected, that Mariana undertook this taſk, in the evening of life, chagrined by troubles he had brought upon himſelf, and merely for diſſipation to a mind, worn out by cloſe application to theological controverſy, and political acrimony, with an impaired conſtitution, in a manner exhauſted, languiſhing under pain and anxiety: however, he had the good fortune to meet with numerous friends, who ſupported his labours, and when Philip IV. a juvenile monarch, aſcended the throne in 1622, Mariana was invited to come to Madrid, and publiſh a new edition of his Spaniſh hiſtory; towards the expence of which, the young king gave him a grant of 1000 ducats. In this hiſtory the author is allowed by his countrymen, every commendation for a bold and manly ſtile, with great energy of expreſſion and freedom of ſentiment; the latter no leſs ſuited to the cauſe of liberty, than the former to eloquence, in ſo much that at a period, when criticiſm was at a low ebb, he ſtood foremoſt in his own country as an hiſtorian, equalled by few, ſuperior to many, and ſurpaſſed by none.

Such were the talents and fame of the Jeſuit Mariana, profeſſor of Divinity in Rome, in Sicily, and in Paris, where the parliament of

this laſt city, condemned to the flames his three books, *de Rege & Regis Inſtitutione*. Such then, was this brilliant Diſciple of Ignatius de Loyola, and member of the ſociety of the Jeſuits, an order of men who have been expelled from every Roman Catholic kingdom in the world, in the following progreſſion.

On the 3d of September, 1759.

From PORTUGAL, and their poſſeſſions in *Europe, Aſia, Africa, and America*.

On the 6th of Auguſt, 1762.

From FRANCE, by the Parliament of Paris, and further proſcribed by an irrevocable decree of the king, in November, 1764, having been baniſhed once before, from that kingdom.

On the 2d of April, 1767.

From SPAIN, by a pragmatic ſanction, having force of law, dated from the Royal Palace of the Pards, dated as above.

On the 3d of November, 1767.

From NAPLES, baniſhed for ever from the dominions of the king of the two Sicilies, by a pragmatic, dated as above.

On the 3d of February, 1768.

From PARMA, expulſed by a ſimilar decree, dated as above.

On the 22d of April, 1768.

From MALTA, by a decree of the Grand Maſter of that religious and military order of knights in the iſland aforeſaid, dated as above: ſince which reſpective periods, no Jeſuit has ventured to ſhew himſelf publickly in any of the above-mentioned ſtates.

EXTINCTION IN ROME.

Finally, on the 21ſt of July, 1773, the Holy Father Pope Clement XIV. iſſued his brief for their total extinction, and abolition, which was duly notified, and made known to the General

of that order, in the city of Rome; on the 16th of Auguſt enſuing, at nine at night, when every meaſure was taken, and proviſion made for the due execution thereof, which took effect accordingly.—See *Clave Hiſtorial por El M. R. P. Henrique Florez, D. D. &c. en Madrid*, 1779.

Note (F) page 82.

I ſhall now relate more particularly the ſeveral queen conſorts and iſſue, both legitimate and illegitimate of the victorious Alphonſo, the Sixth king of Caſtile, who conquered Toledo from the Moors, and ſtiled himſelf Emperor, and in the year 1108, after a reign of thirty five years, ended his reign crowned with glory and triumph, in the ſeventy-ninth year of his age, and was interred in the Royal Convent of Sahagun, with four of his Conſorts, and the two Iſabella's his Fifth and Sixth Queens are interred in the church of St. Iſidore, in the city of Leon.

FIRST QUEEN CONSORT,

The Lady *Inez*, or *Agnes*, by whom he had no iſſue.

SECOND QUEEN,

The Lady *Beatrix* of France.

THIRD QUEEN,

The Lady *Conſtance*, daughter of Robert Duke of Burgundy.

FOURTH QUEEN,

The Lady *Iſabella*, daughter of Philip the Firſt King of France, and ſome ſay of Lewis the Sixth.

FIFTH QUEEN,

The Mooriſh Princeſs *Zaide*, chriſtened by the name of Elizabeth, daughter of *Aben Hamet*, King

King of Seville, who gave his daughter large tracts of land in Spain as a portion.

Sixth Queen,

Iſabella, daughter of the Emperor of Germany.

Children.

By his Third Marriage,

The Lady *Urracca*, married to Raymond who became Count of Galicia, in virtue of this marriage, and was ſon of William II. Count of Burgundy, which Urracca was alſo Queen of Caſtile in her own right, and was ſucceeded by her ſon Alphonſo, after the death of Raymond of Burgundy in 1107. Queen Urracca remarried again with Alphonſo, the firſt King of Arragon and Navarre, from whom ſhe was afterwards ſeparated, her whole life being a ſeries of irregularity and improper behaviour, which involved her kingdom in endleſs warfare and misfortune, and has been the ſubject of various novels and romances.

By his Fourth Marriage,

The Lady *Sancha* married to that diſtinguiſhed warrior Don Rodrigo Gonzales de Ciſneros, ſirnamed *Gyron*, from a peculiar act of valour performed by him in Caſtile, in preſence of the King his Father in-law, and in conſequence of which the ſirname of *Gyron* has been continued to this day to that illuſtrious family, which reckon dukes and counts, and other noble perſonages amongſt their kindred; the *Gyron* is an ordinary, well known in the Engliſh Heraldry. The Spaniſh houſe abovementioned bear for coat armour three Gyrons, *or* in a field *Gules*.

The Lady Elvira married to Roger, King of Naples and Sicily.

By the Fifth Marriage, with the beautiful Zaide,

Don Sancho, killed in battle in 1108, fighting againſt the Moors in the eleventh year of his age, with his tutor Don Garcia, Earl of Cabra. In thoſe days of chivalry, ſo ſtrenuous were the princes even of the blood royal, to extirpate ſuch inveterate enemies as the Moors, that, they in a manner went from the cradle into the field, renouncing all other paſtimes or purſuits to attack them.

Illegitimate Children,

By the Lady *Ximena* de Guzman, daughter of the Count Don Alvaro, Diaz de Guzman *Richome* of Caſtile, ſixth Lord of the Houſe of Guzman, and from whom they all ſpring, King Alphonſo VI. had two daughters, *viz.*

Elvira Alphonso de Guzman,

Married to Raymond Count of Toulouſe, a great lord in France, who died at Tripoli in Syria in 1096, in the cruſade againſt the Turks, headed by Godfrey of Boulogne Duke of Lorraine; their iſſue were firſt Bertrand, father to Poace, Earl of Tripoli, who married a daughter of King Philip I. of France, widow of Tancred, Prince of Antioch, from whom many illuſtrious families are deſcended.

Teresa de Guzman,

Second daughter of King Alphonſo, by the Lady Ximena, married Henry, ſon of another Henry by his wife Sybilla, and grand-ſon to Robert, Duke of Burgundy. To this daughter, Tereſa, King Alphonſo ceded on her marriage with Henry, the conqueſts he had made in Portugal, with the title of Count thereof, to hold of the

the crown of Caſtile, which his ſon Don Alphonſo Henriquez erected into a kingdom, and declared it independant of the crown of Caſtile.

Both this Prince Henry, and his conſort Tereſa, are interred in the cathedral of Braga in Portugal. Henry dying in his ſeventy-ſeventh year, having conquered the Moors in no leſs than ſeventeen pitched battles.

With reſpect to the magnanimous and imperial Alphonſo, it would take a volume to deſcribe his atchievements. He firſt inſtituted the meaſurement of leagues inſtead of miles: introduced the Roman Latin Lithurgy in the church, inſtead of the Gothick Ritual, which was confined to ſix pariſhes in Toledo; at the conqueſt of that city, he firſt gave the Arabic name, and title of *Alcaide* to the governor thereof, which has continued as a title of magiſtracy to this day in Spain.

Amongſt other remarkable acts of King Alphonſo; he is ſaid to be the firſt king who introduced bull fights in Spain, in the year 1100, which being conſidered as cruel and ſanguinary, tending only to inſpire ferocity in a character already ſufficiently animated. They were at laſt inveighed againſt and forbidden in 1567, by Pope

Pope Pius V. however in about thirty years after, the mode of conducting them, being rendered in ſome degree leſs deſperate and barbarous, they were again permitted under particular regulations, in 1596, by Pope Clement VIII.

King Alphonſo alſo forbade the public uſe of baths, which the Caſtilians indulged in with too much luxury and effeminacy, in imitation of the Mahometans, on which occaſions many exceſſes were committed, which Alphonſo determined to extinguiſh, as tending to abaſe the manly character of the Caſtilians, and enervate military diſcipline and martial exploits.

END OF APPENDIX TO VOL. I.

21 JY 69

Printed by J. Barker, Great Ruſſell Street, Covent Garden.